

Aden to revive 'Steadfastness Front'

BEIRUT (R) — South Yemen is trying to bring together members of the dormant "Steadfastness Front" opposed to the 1979 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt, according to its foreign minister. The front, which grouped South Yemen, Syria, Algeria, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has been inactive for more than two years. Two members, Syria and the PLO, have severed their links. "We are working towards clearing the atmosphere among the parties of the Steadfastness Front... to overcome all obstacles which faced coordination in the past," South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali told the pro-Libyan Lebanese weekly Al Kifah Al Arabi. "We feel it is especially important in this phase to revive the front to confront the fierce U.S.-Zionist attack on the area in general and the Palestinian case and Syrian steadfastness in particular," he was quoted as saying.

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Egypt announces new currency rate

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Saturday announced a new floating currency rate against the dollar, to be fixed daily, aimed at curbing the country's black market money dealing. Central Bank Deputy Governor Ali Najm announced the new rate, initially 1.238 Egyptian pounds to the dollar (buying price) and 1.250 pounds (selling price) Sunday morning. He said the rate would be adjusted daily according to market trends. Mr. Najm said the existing official rates of 0.70 Egyptian pounds to the dollar (buying) and 0.83 pounds (selling) would remain unchanged. The new "floating" rate is effectively an official incentive rate closer to the popular black market one, which Saturday stood at 1.36 pounds to the dollar. Black market dealers, now the only source of hard currency for many importers, exchange some \$3 billion a year at rates substantially higher than official bank rates.

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Cabinet congratulates Indian premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat Saturday sent a cable to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi congratulating the Indian leader on his victory in the recent parliamentary elections and formation of the new Indian government. The prime minister's cable, which congratulated Mr. Gandhi in the name of Mr. Obaidat and on behalf of the Jordanian cabinet, expressed hope that cooperation between India and Jordan will continue to be strengthened.

Arafat leaves UAE after 1-day visit

ABU DHABI (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Dubai Saturday after a 24-hour visit during which he had talks with visiting former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said. Mr. Arafat told Dubai Television Friday his talks with Dr. Kreisky dealt with new proposals to solve the Palestinian problem. WAM did not give Mr. Arafat's destination.

Israel says Syrian 'infiltrator' killed

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli soldiers Saturday killed a Syrian soldier who "infiltrated" the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, a military spokesman said. He said the Israeli noticed tracks leading from Syria into the Heights and searched the area for the "infiltrator." The "infiltrator" was found and killed in a clash with Israeli troops, the spokesman added. No Israelis were wounded, he said.

Shultz, Gromyko due in Geneva

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko arrive Sunday for the first nuclear arms discussions between the superpowers since the Soviets abandoned long-range missile talks here 13 months ago. The Shultz-Gromyko meetings Monday and Tuesday are billed as preliminary discussions "on the whole range of questions concerning nuclear and outer space arms" and if they go well a new round of formal negotiations is expected to be scheduled for later this year.

Profiles on Gromyko and Shultz, page 4

Shenouda meets church delegations

CAIRO (AP) — The leader of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church was meeting Saturday with church delegations on his first full day in Cairo since his release from a desert monastery where he was confined by the late President Anwar Sadat, church officials said. The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Pope Shenouda III was meeting delegations from throughout Egypt in preparation for Mass Sunday — the Coptic Christmas Eve. Pope Shenouda arrived late Friday in Cairo three days after President Hosni Mubarak announced the patriarch would be allowed to resume his papal duties immediately.

Mubarak pays surprise visit, holds talks with King

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held three hours of talks on the Palestinian problem and means to speed up efforts for peace in the Middle East during a surprise four-hour visit the Egyptian leader paid to Aqaba Saturday.

Mr. Mubarak, who was accompanied by his Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Information Minister Safwat Sharif and senior political adviser Osama Al Baz, told reporters upon his return to Cairo: "We discussed the Palestinian issue and how we plan to move in the future. There must be movement on the Palestinian issue or else it will die."

The Egyptian leader said he and the King also discussed his forthcoming visit to Washington. "Future moves (on the Palestinian problem), especially my forthcoming visit to Washington, were among the most important subjects we basically discussed. Also the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab situation in general," he said without elaboration.

Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said in a press interview Saturday he hoped Mr. Mubarak's visit to Washington would give impetus to a Middle East peace settlement.

Mr. Ali also told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai' Al Aam that he saw encouraging signs in U.S. and Palestinian attitudes over a Middle East solution.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein and President Mubarak reviewed current Arab affairs and developments on the Arab and international scene, and also steps taken in the field of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt.

Both leaders emphasised their "keenness on pursuing consultations and coordination between the Jordanian and Egyptian leadership to serve the interests of both countries and help achieve the goals of the Arab Nation," Petra said (See related story on page 3).

Sources in the Egyptian delegation quoted King Hussein as saying before Mr. Mubarak left Aqaba that it is of interest to both nations and the Arab World.

Mr. Abdul Meguid described the talks as "very cordial," adding that they would serve as a "new strong and positive step in relations between the two peoples."

King Hussein and President Mubarak held a round of private talks before being joined by Mr. Abdul Meguid, Mr. Sharif and Mr. Baz on the Egyptian side and Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and other senior officials on the Jordanian side.

Mr. Mubarak's visit to Jordan comes amidst fresh diplomatic moves in the past few days over the search for a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Egypt supports Jordan's call for

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who paid a four-hour surprise visit to Aqaba for talks with the King (Petra photo)

Andreotti leaves after talks on peace efforts, Italy-Jordan ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti left Amman Saturday after two days of talks with His Majesty King Hussein and top Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Middle East and the possibility of launching a European-backed Italian peace initiative to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Andreotti, who arrived here Friday — four days after his country assumed the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC) — continued his talks Saturday with high-ranking Jordanian officials.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received the Italian foreign minister at his office Saturday but no details were available on the meeting which was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

In another development, an agreement was reached between Jordan and Italy to set up a joint

committee to promote bilateral economic, trade and cultural ties, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

It did not give details but said the Jordanian side, headed by Mr. Masri, called on the Italian side, headed by Mr. Andreotti to adjust the trade exchange balance which is in Italy's favour. It said Italy should import certain Jordanian products to achieve the balance.

During the meeting held at the Foreign Ministry, Jordan also called on Italy to support economic negotiations between Jordan and EC countries.

Speaking at a dinner banquet he hosted in honour of the Italian foreign minister, Mr. Masri said an international peace conference on the Middle East was the only way to bring peace to the area and that the EC should take part.

The Kingdom has been calling for the convening of such a conference under United Nations auspices to be attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO). The United States and Israel rejected the proposal.

During the dinner banquet held late Friday, Mr. Masri stressed the principle of the non-admissibility of the acquisition of land by force and the Kingdom's commitment to United Nations resolutions 242 and 338.

He said the Kingdom was also committed to the 1982 resolutions of the Fez Arab summit of Morocco and the June 1980 Venice Declaration issued by the EC.

Mr. Masri said that while Jordan responded positively to all peace initiatives in the region, Israel went on with its settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. He described the Israeli actions as "aggressive illegal acts aimed at changing the demographic nature of the occupied lands."

He also called on Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon and

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Aqaba coast declared free from pollution

AQABA (Petra) — The coast of Aqaba is now clean and free from pollution following recent measures taken by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in cooperation with local authorities and the coast guard. RSCN President Anis Muasher said here Saturday.

Speaking during a visit to the port city, Mr. Muasher said cooperation between RSCN and other local government departments has made the beach around Aqaba "one of the cleanest in the world."

Cooperation on the part of the citizens and tourists and fines imposed on violators and those causing pollution have also been instrumental in making the port city a real attraction for visitors, Mr. Muasher said.

He said that the RSCN coordinates its activities and programmes with the various industries in the city to prevent pollution and has set up a committee for Aqaba to follow up coordination.

The RSCN is concerned in particular with preserving the famous Aqaba coral reefs and marine life and therefore it is keeping control over the coast by constantly guarding it through teams patrolling the area in boats and co-operating in this respect with the Ports Corporation and the Marine Research station as well as the coast guard, Mr. Muasher said.

Further measures are planned to ensure that pollution is checked in the region, he said.

During his visit to Aqaba Saturday, Mr. Muasher discussed with Mr. Mohammad Abu Nowar, president of the Aqaba Region Authority, a number of issues pertaining to the environment and means of preventing pollution and other dangers to the city.

U.N. envoy seeks to unseat Naqoura stalemate

BEIRUT (AP) — A United Nations envoy seeking to break the deadlock in the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal talks met Saturday with Lebanese officials, and sources said he would travel to both Syria and Israel before the talks resume Monday.

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Jean-Claude Aime was expected to travel to Israel. But the report from the sources, who asked not to be identified, was the first word that he also would be visiting Syria before Monday's crucial session.

Before the talks were recessed Dec. 20 for the holidays, Israel threatened to walk out unless Lebanon showed itself willing at Monday's session to make concessions that Israel views as necessary to guarantee "security arrangements" in South Lebanon.

Lebanese and Syrian officials were also expected to meet Saturday in Damascus over another stalled issue — the plan to have the Lebanese army take over the coastal highway to South Lebanon from rival militias and reopen the major roadway.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt was in Damascus, and an envoy from President Amin Gemayel was reported to be travelling to the Syrian capital also for talks on how to overcome objections to the army's deployment on the highway.

Prime Minister Karami told reporters following a meeting with Mr. Gemayel at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda that Lebanon's position on the Naqoura talks remains the same.

Mr. Karami said despite differences over the latest plan to reopen the coastal highway, he was optimistic about resolving the snags that delayed the army takeover of the road.

Meanwhile, Swiss Ambassador Paul Andre Ramseyer held talks with Mr. Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami to seek the release of a kidnapped Swiss diplomat. But police said they had no new clues to the whereabouts of Swiss Charge d'Affaires Eric Wehrli, who was abducted Thursday (See page 2).

Katyushas land in Israeli base in South Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two Katyusha rockets fell Saturday on an Israeli base in southern Lebanon, an Israeli military official said in Tel Aviv.

The rockets were fired from an area under the control of the Israeli army in occupied South Lebanon, the official was quoted as saying.

It was not clear whether the rockets caused any damages.

When Israel invaded Lebanon in June, 1982, the Jewish state's leaders announced that the invasion was aimed at eliminating the presence of Palestinian commandos in its northern border, pushing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) beyond artillery range of Israeli settlements in the border region and putting an end to constant Katyusha attacks on the settlements. However there have been a number of rocket attacks on the Israeli occupation forces entrenched in South Lebanon.

Israeli-backed militiamen and others collaborating with the occupation forces have also been constant target of resistance forces.

2 'collaborators' killed
The latest attack on "col-

laborators" with Israel came Friday when the bullet-riddled bodies of two persons were found in Ain Al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon.

The dead persons were identified as Issa Acoubi and Ahmad Hindawi, both Palestinians. Beirut radio said "death sentences had been carried out against the two collaborators" with the Israeli occupation force.

In a statement distributed in the camp, a group calling itself the Organisation of Martyrs of Palestine claimed credit for the killing. It said it had killed two other people in the last two days for collaborating with Israeli intelligence.

Discovery of the two bodies brought to five the number of Palestinians killed in South Lebanon this year for alleged dealings with Israeli intelligence, the sources said.

They reported two other attacks Saturday on suspected collaborators.

In the village of Al Maashouq near Tyre unidentified men shot and wounded a Palestinian, while a Lebanese and his son were shot and seriously injured near Abbasiyeh, seven kilometres north east of Tyre.

Assad pledges backing for Lebanon against Israelis

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad, opening the first congress of Syria's ruling Baath Party in five years, pledged Syrian support Saturday for Beirut against the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

In a two-hour speech, he said: "We support the Lebanese resistance (against Israel) with all our strength and work with our Lebanese brothers for improving security conditions in Lebanon, because security creates a better climate for the Lebanese resistance."

"Israel knows that, and this is why it is doing its best not to let security be maintained in any Lebanese area."

President Assad also said that he no longer believed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) led by Yasser Arafat was representative of the Palestinian people, in effect withdrawing Syria's recognition of the PLO as it now exists.

Mr. Assad made his comment while he criticised both the PLO and Jordan for cooperating with

Egypt, though he mentioned neither directly by name.

The Syrian president, who opposed Mr. Arafat's convening of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile in Jordan last month said Syria will lead "the Palestinian struggle henceforth."

"We were the ones to make the PLO the sole representative at the Rabat '74 summit while (Jordan) was in the other camp," Mr. Assad contended. "We will refuse to believe that those people are the representatives of the Palestinian people and that they reflect the aspiration of this people," he said.

While Mr. Assad in his opening address dwelt on foreign affairs, the congress is also expected to concentrate on ways to boost Syria's stagnant economy.

A party central committee meeting last month said recommendations would be presented to "strengthen the economic base, promote production and modernise agriculture."

(Continued on page 3)

Sudan denies involvement in Falasha airlift

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan denied Saturday it had played any role in the secret airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel and accused Ethiopia of using the issue to bargain for weapons and money from the Israelis.

In a statement released by the foreign ministry, the government acknowledged that large numbers of Ethiopians had transited Sudan on their way to European and Arab countries and that they were treated "without discrimination of race, colour or religion."

"Ethiopia has been using this issue for bargaining with Israel to obtain weapons and funds through the Israeli company, Amihail, which is working in Ethiopia," the statement said.

A large portion of these arms goes to outlaws in southern Sudan in an agreement between Israel and Ethiopia. The government used the term "outlaws" to refer to southern rebels battling the government of President Jaafar Numairi.

Israeli officials confirmed Thursday that thousands of Ethiopian Jews, or Falashas, had been airlifted to Israel.

In Brussels, Belgian Com-

munications Minister Herman de Cro said a Belgian air charter company had flown the Falashas to Israel in an operation that began in November.

Sources close to the operation said the Ethiopian Jews had been flown from Sudan by way of European capitals.

In Washington, U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said the U.S. was "deeply concerned" about the plight of African refugees, "including African Jews," and was working to save the lives of these refugees.

Mr. Romberg, speaking to reporters, did not say whether the U.S. had a role in the airlift of the Falashas.

He made the comments when asked if the United States was helping Israel to evacuate Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

"The United States is deeply concerned about the plight of African refugees, including African Jews, who have been affected by conflict, oppression and famine in the region," Mr. Romberg said.

"The United States has taken direct and special interest in their well being, and we are continuing to work with international org-

anisations, voluntary agencies and the governments of concerned countries to provide food, medical care and resettlement opportunities for the refugees," he noted.

The deputy spokesman said that the United States has been "working quietly and closely with a number of organisations and governments to save the lives of the African refugees, including African Jewish refugees."

A spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has denied the agency was in any way involved in the airlift.

He was commenting on a report from Brussels quoting an unnamed official of Trans European Airways as saying his charter company was carrying out the airlift and that he believed money for it was being channelled through UNICEF.

UNICEF spokesman Anthony Hewitt told Reuters: "We were not involved in this operation. Our interest is in helping look after children in their own communities and societies, not in transporting them to other countries."

A spokesman for the Belgian charter airline that ran the op-

eration told the Associated Press that the airlift ended Saturday.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, could only say "the operation has ended as far as we are concerned."

He could not give the total of Ethiopian Jews who were airlifted, nor the time it took.

Kuwaiti newspapers Saturday voiced concern that the airlift would encourage Israeli expansionism.

The Arabic daily Al Watan attacked Sudan for its alleged role in the exercise and urged Arab nations to review their ties with countries which enabled it to go ahead.

"The new Jewish exodus to Palestine... is sure to cause more Israeli expansion at the expense of our land," it added.

The English-language daily Kuwait Times said the airlift "will give a fillip to Israel's expansionist designs. The black Jews may not find a heaven in inflation-plagued Israel, but they can very well be employed for military purposes."

"Any job would be acceptable to people coming from the disaster area," it added.

Gandhi seeks good relations with U.S., Soviets

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, stressing India's position in the balance between the two superpowers, assured the United States and the Soviet Union Saturday that he wants to strengthen relations with both.

In messages to President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Nikolai Tikhonov, the newly-elected prime minister emphasised India's longstanding non-alignment but also indicated that he would seek aid that could help advance the development of the sub-continent.

Meanwhile it was reported in the independent Indian Express that Mr. Gandhi would visit Moscow after a trip to Washington soon. There was no official confirmation.

Foreign diplomatic analysts

view his choice of the U.S. for the first visit as significant but emphasised that no rapid improvement in Indo-U.S. relations, often strained over continuing U.S. arms sales to India's rival Pakistan, was expected.

Mr. Gandhi, chairman of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement, sent messages to other leaders as well, including one to Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq saying India is committed "to seek peaceful and cooperative relations."

In his message to Mr. Reagan, released by the United News of India, Mr. Gandhi said his victory in recent parliamentary elections gave him an "overwhelming mandate" to safeguard India's unity.

"We also attach the utmost priority to the acceleration of social and economic development in

achieving our objective," he told Mr. Reagan. "I look forward to the further strengthening of cooperation between our two countries."

Analysts have speculated at Mr. Gandhi's reputation as a former airline pilot with an interest in Western technology would mean better relations with the United States which surpassed the Soviet Union last year as India's biggest trading partner.

However, he has repeated his slain mother Indira Gandhi's pronouncement that U.S. arms sales upset the strategic balance in the region and emphasised that the Indian Ocean should be a nuclear-free zone.

In his message to Mr. Tikhonov, Mr. Gandhi said the Soviet Union "stood by us in times of stress and difficulty."

"I shall look forward to further strengthen our friendship and cooperation," he added.

India refrained from criticising the Soviet Union over the intervention in Afghanistan and was the first major democracy to recognise the Vietnamese and Soviet-backed Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea.

In his message to General Zia, Mr. Gandhi expressed hope that "we shall work together for promoting peace and prosperity in this region."

To Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, Mr. Gandhi said he hoped they would work together in "further consolidating and expanding our bilateral cooperation."

Relations with Sri Lanka have been strained over the bloody separatist campaign by Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

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No clues found to whereabouts of kidnapped Swiss diplomat

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Police investigators said Saturday they had no clue to the whereabouts of Switzerland's missing charge d'affaires in Beirut or the identity of his kidnappers.

Maj. Ali Maki, the police officer in charge of investigating the abduction Thursday of Swiss Charge d'Affaires Eric Wehrli, told the Associated Press that police had formed two special units to look for Mr. Wehrli.

"The subject of Switzerland is very, very important," he said. "So far, we have been unable to reach any evidence that could lead us to the party or the place where he is being held."

Maj. Maki said "despite our cooperation with most of the parties (militias) we could not reach any result that would bring good news."

The officer said no claim of responsibility has been received for Mr. Wehrli's abduction.

He added that police were studying information received from Switzerland on two people held in Switzerland whose jailing could be related to the kidnapping. No certainty such a relationship existed.

Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon Paul Andre Ramseyer has flown back to Beirut, where his life was threatened last year, to lead a search for kidnapped Charge d'Affaires Eric Wehrli.

No trace has been found of Mr. Wehrli or of the car from which unknown gunmen dragged him in broad daylight on Thursday, diplomat Jean Saxod told Reuters at the embassy in West Beirut.

A spokesman for the Shiite Muslim Amal Movement that controls much of mainly Muslim west Beirut said it placed high importance on finding Mr. Wehrli but had found no clues.

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Swiss Foreign Ministry State Secretary Edouard Brunner told reporters in Bern Friday that Mr. Wehrli, 43, had been standing in for Ambassador Ramseyer, who had been called back to Switzerland in October after an unspecified threat on his life.

Mr. Ramseyer flew back to Beirut Friday to hold talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and West Beirut security and United Nations officials, Mr. Brunner said.

Mr. Wehrli was the latest of several foreigners to be kidnapped in west Beirut during the last 10 months.

U.S. black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson told NBC Television news Friday he was willing to go to Lebanon to help free three missing Americans kidnapped last year who he believes are still alive.

An anonymous caller told a Western news agency in Beirut the Americans were being held by Islamic Jihad, a radical Shiite group

callers have claimed carried out suicide truck bombings of U.S. and French installations in Beirut.

In Bern, Mr. Brunner linked growing tension around the Swiss embassy in Beirut to the arrest in November of a Lebanese man carrying explosives through Switzerland.

Acting on a subsequent Swiss tipoff, Italian police arrested seven Lebanese the police said were an Islamic Jihad cell that was plotting to blow up the U.S. embassy in Rome.

In west Beirut, relatives of Lebanese kidnapped in the 10-year-old civil war Friday lifted a week-long blockade of the six major crossing points to the eastern sector.

Negotiators promised in return that a new committee would look into their relatives' fate. More than 2,000 are registered as missing but fewer than 200 are believed to be still alive.



Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon Paul Andre Ramseyer (right) holds talks with Lebanese Foreign Ministry Director-General Saturday on the kidnapping of the Swedish charge d'affaires in Beirut (Petra photo)

Turkish premier reshuffles government

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal reshuffled his government Saturday after the resignation of Minister of State Ismail Ozdaglar, state radio said.

Energy Minister Cemal Buyukbas was named to replace Mr. Ozdaglar, whose wife was quoted by the semi-official Anatolian News Agency as saying that her husband had been taken ill last Thursday with a heart complaint.

The apparent demise of Mr. Buyukbas follows strong criticism of him in the Turkish press over plans for a lignite-burning power station on the picturesque Aegean coast.

The radio said Minister of State Sudi Turel would become Energy Minister and Mr. Turel's place as one of the six ministers of state in the conservative Motherland Party government would go to Istanbul Member of Parliament Mustafa Tizir Tizir, 43.

Mr. Ozdaglar had special responsibility for the energy sector. Meanwhile the White House announced Friday that President

Reagan and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal will confer in Washington on April 2.

The leaders of the two NATO member states would meet at the White House during an eight-day official visit by Mr. Ozal to the United States. Spokesman Larry Speakes said.

He said it would be the first such meeting in more than 10 years, adding that it reflected the administration's desire to expand contacts with key allies.

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Iraq reportedly owns most sophisticated arms

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's military chief of staff, General Abdul Jawad Dhannoun, said in an interview released Saturday that Iraqi Armed Forces have the world's most sophisticated military technology.

In the interview with the government newspaper Al-Jumhuriya published Sunday he also warned Iran against launching Gulf war attacks inside Iraqi territory saying: "Their (the Iranians') fate will be black and sad."

A copy of the interview was made available to Reuters.

"The Iraqi army owns the most sophisticated military technology in the world... it is a gigantic army which has access to most modern means of development in the armament and ideological fields," he said.

Gen. Dhannoun did not elaborate. Diplomats here said recently Iraq had taken delivery of sophisticated French and Soviet-made supersonic fighter-bombers, equipped with long range air-to-surface missiles and surface-to-surface missiles.

The general's warning to Iran comes amid reports that Tehran is preparing to launch a fresh offensive in the central Misan sector of the 1180-kilometre long war front.

The Iraqi newspaper Al-Jadisiya said Friday the Iraqi airforce had mounted pre-emptive raids that "dispersed the enemy and forced it to delay its offensive."

Meanwhile Iran's official news agency said that sixteen people were killed and 53 others were wounded when Iraqi jet fighters, helicopter gunships, and artillery attacked the southern Misan zone on the Iranian border.

Iraq's official version of the Friday attack said, however, that its forces had killed nine soldiers in attacks on Iranian "positions and

forces."

The Tehran government accused Iraq of repeated recent violations of the only agreement the two have reached in more than four years of war, a mutual promise last June to refrain from targeting civilians.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) monitored here, said Iraqi warplanes raided residential border towns for the third time this week, causing most of the casualties Friday in four villages around the town of Bostan in Khuzestan province.

The Iraqi statement said the Iranian "soldiers" were killed during "intensified attacks" by helicopter gunships, about 180 miles southeast of Baghdad in the Misan zone of the border between the warring nations.

Iraqi jet fighters also launched 131 bombing raids on the "defeated enemy forces" in the area, the communiqué said. The Misan zone includes Khuzestan.

Iraq said Iranian artillery fire killed a woman in a "residential suburb of Basra," the southern Iraqi provincial capital.

"There had not been reports of attacks on civilian targets along the border for six months. But IRNA said Friday that since Iraq resumed air attacks, there had been more than 30 dead and nearly 150 wounded.

For the past two weeks, Iraqi military communiqués have reported scores of daily air strikes against Iranian troop concentrations in the central sector of the battlefield.

The stepped-up air activity along the battlefield also coincided with a marked escalation in the so-called Gulf "tanker war," with both nations firing at oil tankers from other nations in the northern reaches of the Gulf.

Halefoglu arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Turkey's Foreign Minister Yahya Halefoglu arrived here Saturday on a two-day official visit for talks on ways to boost bilateral cooperation.

Officials said he is expected to discuss setting up joint economic ventures and review regional developments, including moves by Islamic countries to end the war between Iran and Iraq.

Sisco sees no dramatic breakthrough in Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (USA) — On the verge of his Jan. 5 departure for the Middle East, Dr. Joseph Sisco, former undersecretary of state for political affairs, cautions against the expectation of "any dramatic, visible new initiative in the peace process in the short-term."

Mr. Sisco is making an 11-day tour of the Middle East to update his political and economic understanding of regional developments and meet with key government leaders there — many of whom he has known over the years.

Mr. Sisco noted that the U.S. is committed to playing a possible role in restarting the peace process and in facilitating accommodation in the region. He pointed out that the United States remains "the indispensable third party element" and is "still key in terms of influencing the situation" politically and economically.

He said, "we have been very reserved about undertaking a 'dramatic, visible initiative' that would stimulate undue expectations" because "the gap between the two sides is still quite substantial."

"The number one priority at the moment," Mr. Sisco said, "is the question of withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon." He said the U.S. role remains to try to bring about a situation where a withdrawal can be achieved while

"giving some assurance to Israel on the security of its northern borders." He added that "our focus at present is primarily aimed at Damascus" and that it was a good idea to maintain an open dialogue between the United States and Syria. He also emphasized that it is important to retain contact with both sides.

Mr. Sisco, who is currently a partner in the Washington-based firm Sisco Associates, will visit Jordan, Abu Dhabi, Israel, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during his trip, which is being sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. He will be accompanied by his wife, Jean, who is a founding partner of Sisco Associates.

When asked if he thought the Reagan initiative is still viable in the Middle East, Mr. Sisco replied: "I think the elements that are contained in the Reagan initiative of '82 are still the relevant elements that have to be dealt with ultimately in any solution as it relates to the West Bank and to Gaza."

He said it has remained viable because it is based on the fundamental concept of "peace for territory formula" which implies a territorial compromise between Jordan and Israel.

He said, "While it is unlikely that Syria would ever enter into a formal arrangement with Israel as it relates to the (Lebanon) withdrawal question, we shouldn't preclude that Syria — in its own

interests — will on a de facto basis, act in such a way as to give assurance that it would restrain, if not prevent, any PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) infiltration southward in southern Lebanon towards the Israeli border which would bring about another renewal of the cycle of violence and counter-violence" that has existed.

Once described as a "Washington insider in Mideast affairs," Mr. Sisco was the principal advisor and deputy negotiator on Middle Eastern issues while he was undersecretary from 1974 to 1976. Prior to that he served as assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs at the State Department and as the U.S. negotiator on the Arab-Israeli settlement from 1969 to 1974.

He also negotiated the Egyptian-Israeli ceasefire in 1970. Mr. Sisco graduated magna cum laude and as a Phi Beta Kappa from Knox College in 1941 and then received his master's degree from the University of Chicago in international relations in 1950.

On the subject of polarization in the Mideast, Mr. Sisco sees an ongoing division in the Arab World between the moderates and "so-called hardliners." The same division is reflected in the Palestinian movement, according to Mr. Sisco. He said the recent assassination of Fakhri al-Jawasmeh, the former mayor of Hebron, is reflective of the ongoing

division of the Palestinian movement. He said the militants have taken certain steps such as a freeze and a cut in imports. Mr. Sisco called these measures "clearly insufficient," but acknowledged that the Israeli government recognizes that other steps are required. The Israelis must reduce or eliminate certain subsidies, deal with their indexation problem, bring inflation under control and stimulate exports to cope with the current economic struggle, according to Mr. Sisco.

Mr. Sisco denied an Israeli press report that suggested he might soon be named as a trouble-shooter in the Middle East, saying it was "without foundation." He said, every time he makes a trip to the region similar reports reappear. He insisted that he has "absolutely no interest in returning to that role."

As a Middle East expert, Mr. Sisco has published broadly. One example, "Middle East: Progress or Lost Opportunity" appeared in the 1983 edition of Foreign Affairs "America and the World."

Mr. Sisco said the Reagan administration should figure out how to open a serious arms control dialogue with the Soviets and that "the Middle East and the Gulf, while of critical and vital importance to the United States and the West," is a secondary priority — "in the momentary."

On the subject of Israel's economy, Mr. Sisco noted that it is "a long term fundamental structural problem" and said that "there are no quick, easy fixes." He pointed out that the U.S. can be helpful with additional aid but that the economic problem is "primarily for Israel and the Israelis to solve." He said: "We cannot solve

it for them."

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Arabs hold memorial service for Qawasmeh in U.S.

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — The Arab community in Washington Friday held a memorial service in memory of Fakhri al-Jawasmeh, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee who was assassinated in Amman last Saturday.

Speakers delivered speeches of eulogy in tribute to Mr. Jawasmeh "who dedicated his life to resisting the Zionist enemy and for struggling to achieve freedom for Palestinians."

The speakers denounced the assassination as aimed at further dividing the Arab Nation in general, and the Palestinian people in particular and described the perpetrators as "Zionist agents."

Taking part in the service were a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors in Washington as well as presidents of Arab-American societies and organisations and prominent intellectuals.

U.K. frees 2 of 3 Britons held over missing Libyan

LONDON (R) — Police said Saturday they have released two of three Britons arrested in connection with the disappearance of a Libyan businessman while on bail awaiting trial on drugs charges.

The businessman, Mohammad Shebli, who faced charges of smuggling cocaine and cannabis, has been described by British newspapers as a brother-in-law of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Police say the three were detained on Thursday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after detectives from London questioned two Britons, held in Cairo as alleged Libyan "hit-men," about Mr. Shebli's disappearance last January.

One of the trio is reported to be a businessman who runs an aircraft-hire service, but police refused to say if he was among the two men released Friday night. The third man was still being held for questioning.

Meanwhile, Col. Qaddafi said Friday night that he favours the release of four detained Britons. Col. Qaddafi's remarks, in a speech broadcast in Libya and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, fulfilled a promise made to Terry Waite, a Church of England envoy who visited Libya last month.

Repeating in public what he told Mr. Waite in private, he said that "only Libya's People's Congress has the authority to release the four men, but if it were up to him he would have released them."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:10 That's Incredible
19:10 Local Health and Life Programme
19:30 Programmes Review
19:40 News Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic Series
21:45 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:55 Local Programme
22:25 Local Varieties
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme: Apostrophe
19:00 News in French
19:15 Apostrophe Contd.
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Don't Wait Up
21:10 The Making of the Continent
22:00 News in English
22:15 Mini-Series: Jacqueline Kennedy Part 2

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM
at parity on 9560 KHz SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:15 Morning Show
11:00 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 News Summary
14:30 Instruments
15:00 Coochin Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Oats with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Science Report
22:00 Evening Show
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Juke Box Duty
06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Ref-
lections 07:00 World News 07:05 24
Hours: News Summary 07:30 Good
Books 07:45 Letter from America 08:00
09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours:
News Summary 09:30 From Our Own
Correspondent 09:50 Letter from London
10:00 World News 10:05 Ref-
lections 10:15 The Pleasure of Yours
2400 World News 11:00 British
Broadcast 11:15 Sports Review 11:45 Re-
view the Universe 12:00 News Summary:
Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Re-
view 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World
News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15
From Our Own Correspondent 13:30
Baker's Half Dozen 14:00 News Sum-
mary: Play of the Week 15:00 World
News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary
15:30 The Hibel-Hibel 15:45 The Sandi
Jones Request Show 16:30 Classical Ser-
ies: Wives and Daughters 17:00 Radio
Newsweek 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00
World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15
Church and State 18:45 Letter from
America 19:00 World News 19:05 Mer-
idian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports
Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Mai-
stream 21:10 News Summary 21:15 The
Psychiatrist's Chair 22:00 World
News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary
22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 News
Summary 23:15 The Pleasure of Yours
2400 World News 00:00 Talk 00:25
World 00:30 Financial Review 00:40
Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up
01:00 World News; Commentary 01:15
Letter from America 01:30 Plato to
Nazi

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 & 15210

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal
Presentation of Popular Music with Fea-
ture Reports, Interviews, Answers to
Listeners' Questions, Science Digest,
Sports News at 30 minutes past the
hour. 06:15 Focus 17:00 News 17:10
New Horizons and New Products 17:30
Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Inter-
national Viewpoints 18:30 Special
English News and Features 19:00 News
19:10 Critics' Choice 19:30 Issues in the
News 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30
Special English News and Features
21:00 News 21:10 Sunday Report 21:30
Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Nawal Radi Al
Abdulla at the Royal Cultural Centre
(until Jan. 16).

* An exhibition of paintings by Egyptian
artist Ahmad Shafiq at the Royal Cul-
tural Centre (until Jan. 5)

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Cultural Library 41520
British Council 361476
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Jordan National Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costu-
mes over 100 years old. Also mosaics
from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre,
Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5
p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an
excellent collection of the antiquities of
Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill).
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m.
- 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col-
lection of paintings, ceramics, and sculp-
tures by contemporary Islamic artists
from most of the Muslim countries and a
collection of paintings by 19th Century
orientalist artists. Montazah, Jabbal
Luwadbeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.
- 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30126.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum):
Collection of military memorabilia dat-
ing from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to
150 year old items such as costumes,
weapons, musical instruments, etc.
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every
first and third Wednesday at the Hol-
iday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings
every second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Riyadh, Dhahran (SVI)
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CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabbal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabbal Luwadbeh, 37440.
De la Sade Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabbal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Abdali, 25541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Red-
cemer) Jabbal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh,
771331.
Armenian Orthodox

Obeid in Cairo for talks on maritime transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Farhi Obeid has left for Cairo to hold talks with Egyptian officials on transport-related affairs. The minister is expected to discuss linking Jordan and the Arab Orient with Egypt by a ferry boat service and organising maritime shipping between Aqaba and Egyptian ports as well as facilitating procedures for travellers and means of transport and the exchange of tourists. Mr. Obeid is also expected to discuss a draft agreement on maritime transport to be signed between the two countries.

The minister is scheduled to

visit Nuweibee port which is expected to be linked with Aqaba through the ferry boat service. Mr. Obeid is accompanied on his four-day visit by Dr. Ibrahim Badran, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and a representative of the shipping agents in Jordan.

A technical committee led by Mardi Jattamin, director general of the Ports Corporation, is already in Egypt to study the projected ferry boat service and maritime transport, and is conducting talks with Egyptian officials on transport-related issues.

Australia agrees to continue agricultural assistance project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Australian government has agreed to extend for three more years the assistance it is offering to Jordan through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to develop rainfed regions in the country.

The project, which was started in 1981, is designed to introduce fodder legumes into the crop rotation system in a number of areas

around the country. It is also designed to increase the fertility of the soil and to improve agricultural production, especially cereals and animal feed to increase animal wealth and farmers' income.

The government of Australia offers technical aid and seeds as well as farm implements and expertise, worth an estimated \$1.29 million, to help Jordan carry out the project.

Jordan University concludes cultural, exchange agreements with three Iraqi institutes

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan has concluded agreements on cultural and educational cooperation with three Iraqi universities during a visit to Iraq by University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Upon returning to Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long visit, Dr. Majali said that the agreements came at the end of talks he held with officials from these universities and with the Iraqi ministers of education and higher education which aimed at bolstering cultural, scientific and educational cooperation between

Jordan and Iraq.

The agreements with the universities of Baghdad, Al Mustansiriyah and Mosul provide for an exchange of teaching staff in various specialisations, conducting joint research projects, offering post graduate studies to nationals of both countries and other related affairs including the exchange of scientific publications, pamphlets and cultural activities.

Dr. Majali was accompanied by a two-member delegation from the University of Jordan.

IDB grants 188 loans in 1984

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) granted 26 loans amounting to JD 63,000 during last month to finance various industrial projects thus bringing the total number of loans granted by the bank during 1984 to 188 with a total value of JD 491,000. The loans have been distributed among the various governorates and districts throughout the country.

Mubarak pays surprise visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

an international conference to be attended by the Soviet Union, the U.S. and all parties involved in the conflict to try to work out a comprehensive settlement.

Saturday's Hussein-Mubarak meeting followed by two days talks the King held with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

It also comes one day after discussions between the King and Ita-

lian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, whose country has been pressing for a European initiative for Middle East peace negotiations.

It was Mr. Mubarak's second visit to Jordan since September 25 when Jordan resumed relations with Egypt after a five-year break over Cairo's 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel. King Hussein visited Cairo on Dec. 1.

Andreotti leaves after talks on peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

called on the international community to exert efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

In response to Mr. Masri's speech, Mr. Andreotti urged the PLO to join the Kingdom in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace initiative. "We hope that the PLO, which has already made progress towards the option of negotiations, will take the further necessary steps forward thus allowing the achievement of concrete results."

Mr. Andreotti pointed out to recent meetings between King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the King's talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and described them as important.

Mr. Andreotti, who was received Friday by the King, said in a statement upon his arrival at the Amman airport that Italy was still committed to the Venice Declaration. He said "there cannot be a new initiative unless there is some preparation."

Mr. Andreotti told Italian journalists accompanying him that Jordan and the PLO still had to work out the difficult problem of what form a Palestinian state

would take and how close its relationship would be with the Kingdom.

The Italian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation toured Saturday the rose-red Nabatean city of Petra.

In a statement to Petra prior to his departure Mr. Andreotti said his talks with King Hussein, Prince Hassan and other senior officials dealt with political issues as well as Italy's contribution to supporting Jordan's development plans.

He said that the King briefed him on steps taken so far in Jordanian-Palestinian joint action to push forward peace efforts in the region. Italy believes that a just and comprehensive peace in the region requires Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as the right of all countries in the region to live in peace within recognised and secured borders. Mr. Andreotti said.

In another statement to Petra, Mr. Masri said the Italian foreign minister's talks in Jordan dealt with a number of issues related to supporting and promoting bilateral relations.

The two sides also reviewed the



ANDREOTTI SEEN OFF: Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti who left after a two-day visit (Petra photo)

JPMC to increase production, improve marketing, Azar says

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has made preparations for working to full capacity this year with the aim of raising its production to 6.7 million tonnes as a minimum and seven million tonnes as maximum, up from 6.3 million tonnes last year.

This was announced by JPMC Director General Wasef Azar who said that the production programme is contained in the company's general plan for this year.

Mr. Azar said that the company will try to reach its peak production level with as little cost as possible and will also double its efforts for marketing the product abroad. "It is necessary to minimise production costs so that the company can be in a competitive position in the international market and it has thus become necessary for the company to boost its mining capacity, employing its own resources and staff, rather than relying on contractors," Mr. Azar pointed out.

The plan, he said, requires Ruseifa mine to continue operations along with the mines in southern Jordan. The company's three mines at Ruseifa, Hassa and Wadi Al Abiad will produce between

them the seven million tonnes of which 1.2 million tonnes will be sold to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company, while the rest will be marketed abroad, Mr. Azar said.

In 1984, JPMC sold 4.7 million tonnes of Jordanian phosphates and the 5.5 million figure is expected to be achieved this year by reducing the production cost to an average of by 750 fils per tonne less than that of last year, Mr. Azar said.

In 1986, JPMC plans to raise its

production to 7.5 million tonnes and this requires opening the Shidieh mines for production, he added. The Shidieh mine is expected to be operational by 1987 at an average of half a million tonnes annually, Mr. Azar added.

According to Mr. Azar, JPMC has drawn up training programmes for its staff and engineers in Jordan, Sweden, the U.S., Britain, Japan to raise their skills and efficiency and to enable local staff to take over from non-Jordanians.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee reviews school admissions

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint committee from the administrative and educational committees of the Upper House of Parliament Saturday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi during which the joint committee discussed the proposed admissions regulations for the secondary school stage.

ADC plans Marqa housing complex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Development Corporation (ADC) is planning to set up an urban housing project on the old racing club's land in Marqa. The project will comprise trading centres, schools, nurseries, gardens and playgrounds for children, public utilities and car parks. The ADC has purchased the club's land to use part of it for constructing the project.

Irbid to establish children's gardens

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Municipality has decided to set up a new garden for children in the north west area of the city. Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said that the 16-dunum garden will include playgrounds and recreational facilities for children. He also pointed out that the municipality will make gardens available in various parts of the city.

Sarvath to patronise oils exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of oil paintings by Nawal Radhi Al Abdullah will open Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Sarvath. On display at the seven-day exhibition are 65 oriental oil paintings. A spokesman for the RCC said that the centre's activities for this month include French cartoon films and a local play. The centre will also organise an exhibition of silk paintings by Ezzat Shukri in addition to an Italian exhibition.

JEA electrifies Ma'an district villages

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has completed the electrification of the villages of Dalagha, Wadi Musa, Al Nawalfeh and Jelwakh in Ma'an Governorate at the beginning of this year thus supplying electricity to the 7,000 people living in these villages. JEA Aqaba District Manager Majed Al Jawasneh said that the electrification of these villages is within the South Rural Electrification Project under which electricity will also be provided to 33 villages in Ma'an, Shobak, Tafelch and Karak areas. He pointed out the project, which will benefit 25,000 people, is estimated to cost about JD 2 million.

Cooperative Bank to open new branches

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cooperative Bank is to open four new branches in Karak, Zarqa, Madaba and Taibeh in 1985, according to the bank's director general, Mr. Mohammad Al Jalqili. He said that the four branches are designed to help finance projects which are being implemented by the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO) in various areas of the Kingdom.

NURSE AND NURSE'S ASSISTANT WANTED

Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped requires a female nurse and a female practical nurse's assistant both efficient in nursing the physically handicapped.

The society offers free room and board. Candidates are to apply in person to the society building located at the 7th Circle, behind the Royal Automobile Club, presenting all necessary credentials on Wednesday and Thursday 9th and 10th of January between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Telephone 817598, 817599, 817613

Federations sign agreement, issue joint communique

Jordan, Egypt labour unions agree to cooperate

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Egyptian labour union federations have signed an agreement on joint cooperation in labour-related affairs and an exchange of visits and coordination of efforts on the Arab and international levels.

The agreement was signed during a visit to Egypt by a delegation from Jordan led by Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, president of the Jordanian Labour Unions Federation (JLUF).

Mr. Khaddam said that an Egyptian labour unions delegation will visit Jordan in April for talks with Jordanian colleagues on the labour movement and bilateral cooperation. According to Mr. Khaddam, the two sides agreed to hold training courses for labour union leaders and to conduct other similar activities.

and to impose tutelage and hegemony on the organisation. They also condemned all attempts to prevent the Palestinians from taking their own independent decisions and also assassination attempts on PLO leaders.

The joint communique called for an end to the Gulf War which they said can only serve the enemy's objectives and sap Arab resources. They called for maintaining Arab unity, unified Arab ranks and solidarity in the face of challenges and dangers threatening the Arab nation.

Support for PLO

Upon the delegation's return to Amman, a joint communique was issued voicing the two unions' absolute support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and leader of the Palestinian people's struggle for regaining usurped rights in Palestine.

Both sides deplored attempts to interfere in the affairs of the PLO

Call for Arab summit

In this respect, the two sides voiced their total support for coordination steps between Egypt and Jordan and stressed the need for holding an Arab summit as soon as possible to restore Arab solidarity and to bolster Arab strength.

The communique also appealed to the people of Lebanon to settle their civil war through peaceful

dialogue and to safeguard the stability and security of their country.

It also condemned all forms of racial discrimination exercised by South Africa against the African people and the discrimination being practiced by Israel against the Arab people of Palestine. The two sides also called for an end to the arms race and for the employment of modern technology to serve humanity and to achieve world peace and prosperity.

The JLUF announced its decision to resume relations with the Egyptian Unions Federation in mid-December.

At that time Mr. Khaddam said that Jordan's labour unions have deep faith in, and extend support for, the struggle of the Egyptian labour movement and appreciate its leading national role to improve the condition of Arab labourers.

He said in view of this stand, the JLUF decided to restore relations with the Egyptian Labour Union Federation.

Mr. Khaddam said that the absence of the Egyptian Labour Federation from the Arab scene "has caused a deep rift in the Arab labour movement and therefore, the return of this federation to pan-Arab activities is bound to strengthen the Arab labour movement."

Economists, officials debate benefits of attracting international firms to Jordan

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Ibrahim Badran Saturday said that convening an international conference on Jordan as a Trade Centre for Multi-National Companies is very important and could be very fruitful on the condition that studies and research are conducted in order to build a national infrastructure for marketing. He also said that surveys should study how to benefit from the available capabilities and resources without depending on economical booms which occur every now and then.

Speaking at a preparatory meeting held with a number of Jordanian economists and trade officials to discuss the feasibility of holding such a conference, Dr. Badran said that Jordanian legislation has left the door open for multi-national and international companies to establish regional and off-shore centres in Amman. He added that all these companies require legislative laws concerning multi-national companies are slight cosmetic changes in order to cope with the current situation.

He also said that Jordan is facing two options regarding receiving multi-national companies. The first option is having superficial participation by these companies, like in Lebanon and

Bahrain, or having multi-national companies which infiltrate deep within the society and which could use the country's base with all its capabilities, manpower, technology and finance, from which the multi-national companies gain benefit. Thus, gains cannot be affected because they are attached to the social structure of the receiving countries such as in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, Dr. Badran said.

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International Company had called for the convening of such a conference in 1986 to attract multi-national companies' regional offices and centres in Amman. At the

meeting, Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, president of the company, outlined the benefits of making Jordan a base for regional offices, saying that in Jordan there are only 300 Amman-based international companies while in Cyprus there are some 15,000 international and multi-national companies.

He said that in 1975, after the flow of companies from Beirut to Amman many did not stay more than two months because of the lack of communications and services, but now everything has changed and the atmosphere is appropriate to attract companies, Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said.

Public Works Ministry prepares engineers' training programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works has prepared training courses for engineers employed by the ministry for various construction and road building operations.

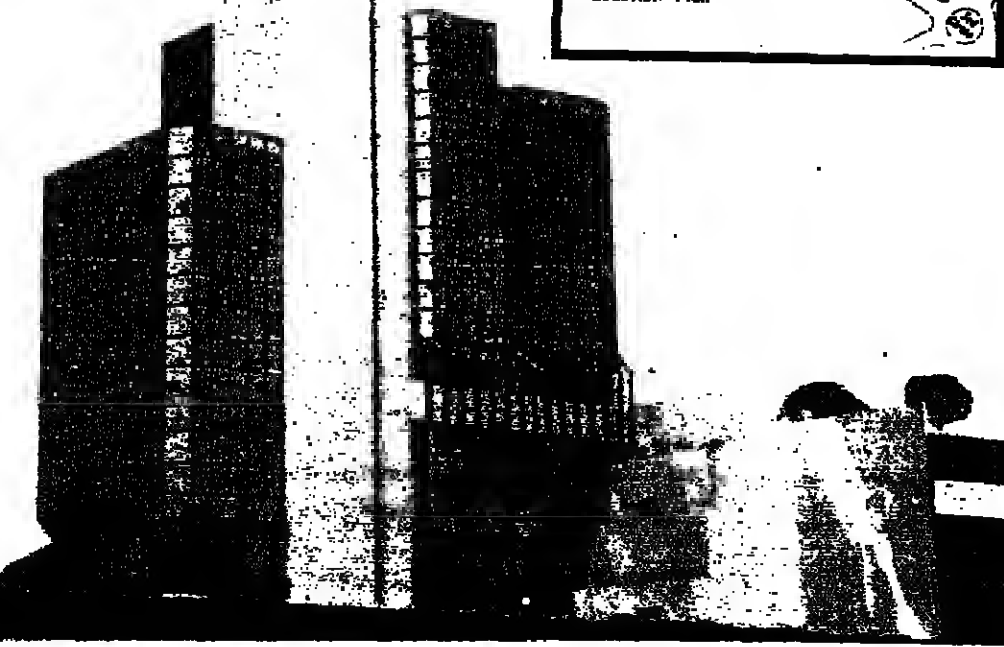
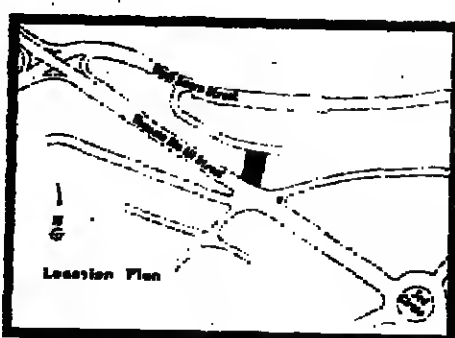
Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem said that the programme entails training courses that would help avoid waste of material in major construction projects and maintaining public safety and high standard. They are also designed to recruit technicians to be employed in laboratories and road res-

earch centres in all governorates, the minister said.

Each of these courses, he added, is to last six weeks with the first starting on Jan. 17th. Those attending will hear lectures, watch laboratory tests and make field trips to inspect construction projects being implemented and will also familiarise themselves with the materials used and with maintenance services. At the end of each course the engineers will take theoretical and practical tests, the minister added.

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Assad pledges backing for Lebanon resistance

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Assad in his speech Saturday pledged Syria would intensify efforts and move quickly to achieve security in Lebanon, adding that Syrians and Lebanese "will work together to resist this usurping enemy (Israel)."

The president said the Arabs would not restore their rights "they do not follow the course of Lebanese resistance — the course of martyrdom or victory."

After his speech, Mr. Assad sat down next to Khaled Fahoum, who had been speaker of the Pal-

estine National Council until he refused to attend the November meeting in Amman.

On the other side of Mr. Fahoum sat Rifaat Assad, the president's brother who many believed President Assad exiled last year amid a disruption in internal Syrian politics.

However, Rifaat Assad returned to Damascus in November after months in Europe, and his appearance on the dais with the president was evidence of his acceptance back into the Syrian leadership.

The congress, which Mr. Assad

opened Saturday was expected to elect a new regional command of the party, the body through which Hafez Al Assad rules Syria.

The Baath Party congress had been rumoured to begin on several earlier occasions but it was apparently held up because of the reported disagreement between the Assad brothers.

Lebanese Socialist leader Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri were at Saturday's meeting, as was Abdul Salam Jaloud, number two man to Libyan leader Muammar 'Gadhafi.

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Falashas fail the Arabs

"OPERATION MOSES" is the code name of Israel's latest display of publicity stunts. Never mind that Israeli officials have been voicing concern that publicity might endanger the airlift of the Ethiopian Jews. The operation is mainly intended to counter the charge that Zionism equals racism, said Moshe Gilboa, director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's World Jewish Affairs Division.

Not many people would want to doubt that some humanitarian considerations might have spurred the Israelis to airlift the Falashas from famine-hit Ethiopia. But we are convinced that this humanitarian aspect was no more sincere, on the part of the Israelis, than the attempt to get American and other aid for the operation. After all, a gift of \$60 million from American Jews, \$5 million from the U.S. government and the prospect of qualifying thousands of black Jews for occupying empty blots in West Bank settlements are not unimportant considerations vis-a-vis the humanitarian motives of the Israeli state.

What is also important for the Israelis in deciding to carry out "Operation Moses" must be the side effects of the airlift. For the first time, an Arab country — namely Sudan — gets implicated in an effort aimed against Arab interests and one that serves Israel directly. In the same manner, the U.S. and other European countries and organisations will be implicated in Israel's favour — something which the Zionist state should truly cherish. The credibility of the Ethiopian government, which should in no way be sympathetic to Israel's views on world and regional issues, would also suffer in the eyes of the Arabs. Add to all of this the expectation that pressure will mount on the Soviet Union to increase Jewish emigration from there to Israel and other countries as well.

The Arab governments have so far remained silent. But they cannot really maintain this silence. There are a number of questions that have to be asked and addressed, by the Arab states themselves, by Sudan and Ethiopia, by Belgium and other European countries which helped in smuggling people out of Ethiopia and into Israel and by the United States whose spokesman did not waste a second in making their pleasure felt about the whole operation.

The final results of Israel's latest display of publicity stunts might not be all publicity-related. The people of the occupied territories may well be asked to pay a heavy price for it. So the rest of the Arabs, and the future of this area. In the end, Israel could decide that a little bit of racial discrimination might all too easily be offset by having more black soldiers to kill and displace the Arabs.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Determined to help brothers

SINCE THE occupation of the West Bank in 1967, Jordan's national budget has been linked to both the country's security and that of the Arab states. In drawing up the budget, officials have been trying to draw a balance between our sources of income and the many duties and responsibilities which we shoulder and at the same time trying to provide the Armed Forces with the most effective means for defence.

Jordan's commitment to the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Israel's continued arbitrary measures against them have been laying extra difficulties before us. Despite that, the budget for 1985 reflects the government's keenness on adhering to the principles and established policies of Jordan. The budget and the prime minister's address to parliament reaffirm Jordan's determination to develop the West Bank and help its inhabitants to Israel's measures and practices.

The budget comprises provisions for strengthening the Armed Forces in line with the government's concern over the defence of the nation. It also contains provisions for improving the standards of living for the civil servants, the military and the pensioners. No doubt, the government needs every citizen's cooperation and assistance if it wants to implement this budget and if the country is to achieve progress.

Al Dustour: Welcome, Mr. Andreotti

WE WELCOME Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who chose Amman as the first leg of his tour of Arab countries, and we remember Italy's constructive and positive stand with regard to the Middle East question and its diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis. We also remember that the European Economic Community's Venice Declaration of 1980 was issued when Italy was chairman of the EEC. Italy also played a positive role in this regard during the EEC's annual meeting in Ireland last month.

The EEC's declaration reminded the world of the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland and to self-determination. Through we realise that Europe cannot act independently from the U.S., yet we feel satisfied with Italy's stand which reminds us of similar positions adopted by Greece and France towards the Arab region and which differ from that of the U.S., which is totally biased towards Israel.

It is true that Italy and the other European countries have strong links with the Arabs, but for Europe to play a meaningful role and help the Arabs solve the Middle East issue, the Arabs should adopt a unified stand and display solidarity and show seriousness so that Europe can be encouraged to help solve the issue.

Sawt Al Shaab: New European effort?

THE ITALIAN foreign minister's visit to Jordan opens up again the possibility for Europe to play a role in solving the Middle East crisis. Giulio Andreotti is the present chairman of the European Economic Community (EEC) and it is in his country that the EEC made its declaration about the Middle East. This declaration was welcomed by Jordan as helpful to carrying out U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which had been regarded as a basic element for peace.

The 242 resolution itself was engineered by Britain, one of the EEC members which have economic, cultural and trade links with the Arab region. Italy's relations with the Arab Nation have been growing steadily since the end of the World War II and Italy's prime minister's meeting with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis and his subsequent statement in which he stressed that the Palestinians are seeking peace, came to bolster bilateral relations.

Constantly driving away from self-sufficiency

By Fahed Faneh

ACCORDING TO the yearly statistical series (1964 - 1983) issued by the Central Bank of Jordan to commemorate its twentieth anniversary, and resorting to table No. 24 depicting Jordan's balance of payments, we find that the deficit in the goods and services account forming the current account was JD 46.6 million in 1970 before enrolling foreign aid or external loans, but including transfers from expatriates.

This means that in the year

1970 the gap separating us from a state of financial self-sufficiency was just JD 46.6 million in foreign exchange. Out of this gap, JD 40.6 million were covered by Arab and foreign aid, JD 3.5 million from capital transactions, i.e. investments and loans, thus leaving a net deficit of JD 2.5 million which was met by drawing on the foreign reserves held by the banking sector.

After 13 good years of economic planning and im-

plementation pursuit of self-sufficiency, we find out that the deficit in the balance of goods and services in 1983 has reached JD 436.25 million or ten times the deficit of 13 years ago, i.e. in a bad year like 1970.

Are we getting closer or further from our target of financial self-sufficiency? Before we can answer this important question, we have to note that due to persisting inflation, the Jordanian dinar naturally lost a major part of its purchasing power. Using cost

of living index, we find out that one Jordan dinar in 1970 is equivalent to JD 3.470 in 1983. This means that the deficit in 1970 of JD 46.6 million is equal to JD 161.7 million of 1983 dinars.

Having excluded the inflation effect and unified the unit used to measure the deficit of the current account in real terms, being the best criterion to measure the width of the gap separating us from self-sufficiency, we find that after

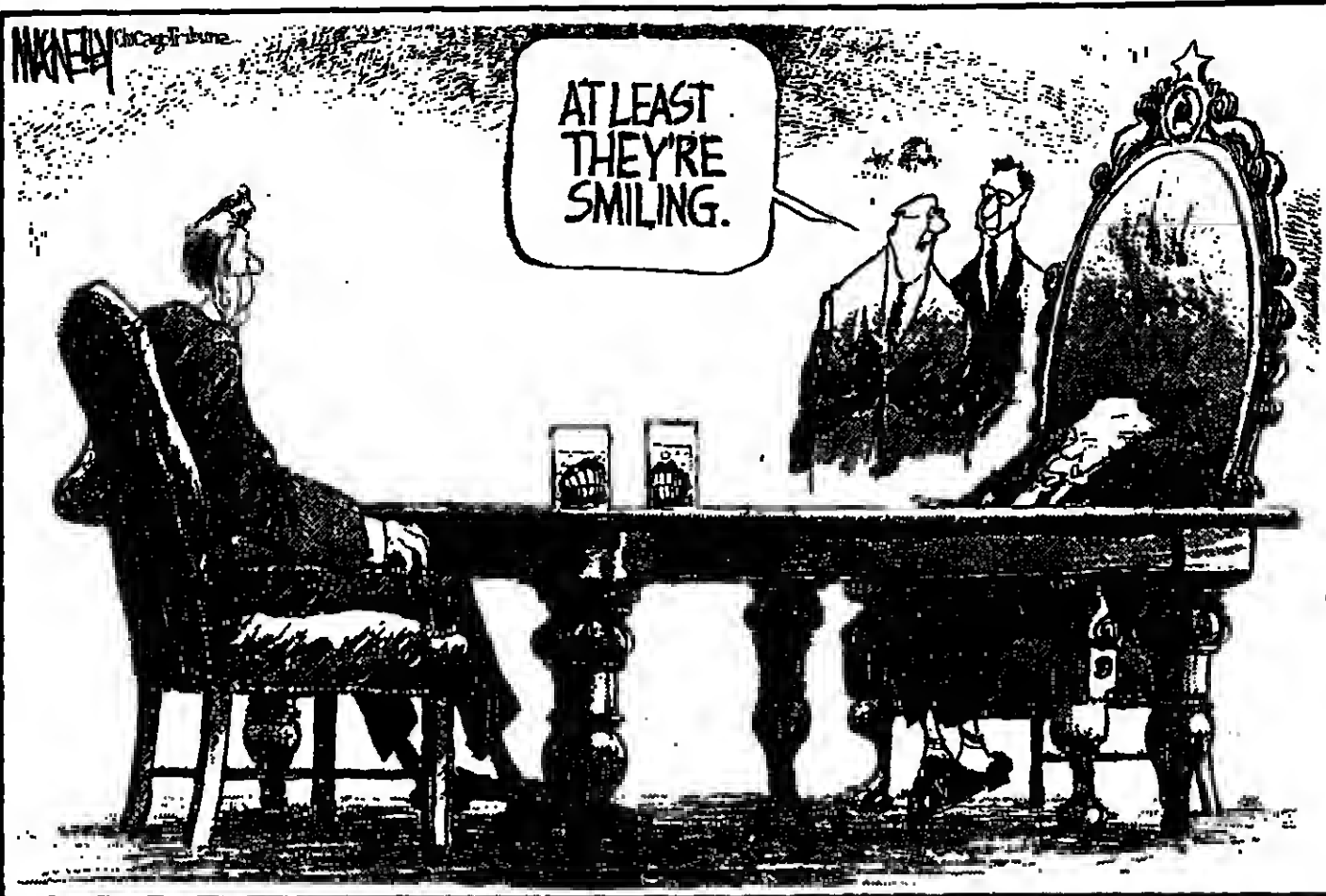
13 years we managed to increase our deficit by 170 per cent.

This indicator tells us in no ambiguous terms, that we are now farther from self-sufficiency than we were in 1970 and that the gap has widened and grew bigger, not in absolute figures only but in constant purchasing power, and as a ratio to gross national product, i.e. by any real or relative standard.

This sobering fact should

push us to reconsider our current policies; financial, monetary, trade and development which prevailed during the past years. A substantial change is warranted.

Since 1970, the Jordanian national economy achieved a phenomenal quantitative growth, but growth or expansion per se is not a substitute for the over-due structural correction, as long as our ultimate aim was and still is a better future and more of self-sufficiency and sustainability.



Five forums on how to ease tension

From Reuters

GENEVA — Despite a year-long break in major arms talks, lower-level discussions between East and West on reducing the risk of war have continued, but with no progress.

Two sets of U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva — aimed at limiting intercontinental and medium-range nuclear weapons — were suspended by the Soviet Union late in 1983 when American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles began arriving in Western Europe.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will discuss how to reactivate the stalled negotiations — and possibly how to inject new life into the other arms forums — when they meet in Geneva this week.

Negotiations on reducing conventional forces and the risk of surprise attack in Europe and on chemical weapons continued in 1984 but are up in the air and will resume later this month or early in February.

Following is a breakdown of the issues and weapons involved and proposals tabled so far in all five sets of talks:

Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START)

U.S.-Soviet talks on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and other long-range nuclear weapons systems opened in Geneva in June 1982 and quickly became stalemate.

ICBMs are the most threatening nuclear weapons because of their range, explosive punch, and increasing accuracy which makes each side's ground-based missiles vulnerable to attack.

U.S. originally proposed reduction of land and sea-based warheads to about 5,000 on each side, only half to be land-based, followed by reducing missiles in 850. U.S. says it has 7,297 strategic

warheads, compared with Moscow's 7,700.

Later, President Reagan offered to reduce U.S. ICBMs in exchange for concessions such as trimming the destructive power of Soviet warheads.

U.S. also urged a "build-down" plan under which more existing missiles would be removed than new ones deployed. Washington said Kremlin's reaction was negative.

Moscow proposed cuts by roughly 25 per cent to bring total missile and nuclear bomber stocks allowed by 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-2) down to 1,800 on each side. Major warheads would be cut to equal levels.

Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF)

U.S.-Soviet negotiations on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe started in Geneva in Nov. 1981 and had made little headway when they were suspended in November 1983.

NATO has begun deploying 572 Pershing-2 and cruise weapons to match a Soviet build-up of medium-range missiles.

As of December 1984, Moscow had deployed 587 triple-warhead SS-20s in Europe and in Soviet Asia, while NATO had based 54 Pershing-2s and 48 cruise missiles in Western Europe. NATO officials say, U.S. proposal: after first urging total ban on land-based deployments, known as the "Zero Option," U.S. offered equal global ceiling of 420 medium-range warheads on each side.

Soviet proposal: initially a cut of European-based SS-20s to match 162 sea and land-based missiles in British and French independent nuclear forces. Idea was rejected by West.

Moscow then offered a cut to 120 SS-20s but only in Europe, not including deployments in Sov-

iet Asia.

Under 1979 NATO "double track" decision, U.S. missiles are to be based in West Germany (108 Pershing-2s, 96 cruise missiles), Britain (160 cruise missiles), Italy (112 cruise missiles), Belgium and the Netherlands (48 cruise missiles each) if negotiating track is unsuccessful.

U.S. is now urging Belgium and Netherlands, both under pressure from anti-nuclear movements over the basing plan, to stick to agreement and accept deployments.

40-nation Conference on Disarmament (CD)

Autonomous body in Geneva linked to United Nations, includes all five nuclear weapons states (U.S., Britain, China, France, Soviet Union), established in present form in 1978.

It is mainly considering a worldwide ban on chemical and radiological weapons. Another task is how to monitor an eventual total ban on nuclear arms tests, including underground tests, the only type still allowed.

The test ban talks became deadlocked on procedural issues, but hopes rose last year for gradual progress on chemical arms.

U.S. Vice President George Bush last April presented a draft treaty calling for global chemical weapons ban and monitoring to verify compliance. Moscow rejected idea, saying it discriminated against Soviet bloc, which would have to open all chemical plants to inspection while Western private plants were exempt.

Soviet Union has offered some concessions on verification but West says they are inadequate.

Conference on Disarmament in Europe (CDE)

Meeting of 33 Western, Communist and neutral European states plus U.S. and Canada opened in January 1984 to consider measures that would reduce the risk of

surprise attack in Europe.

NATO proposal: package of "confidence building" measures including exchange of information on ground/air forces, notification of military activities, mandatory invitations to military exercises, inspections to check compliance.

Soviet position: wants declarations on no-first-use of nuclear weapons, non-use-of-force, zones in Europe to be declared free of nuclear and chemical weapons.

Conference ended long squabble over procedure in November by agreeing to set up two working groups for detailed discussions.

Forces and armaments in central Europe

Vietnam talks in 12th year between 12 NATO and seven Warsaw pact nations. No result so far. Object is to trim conventional forces and arms in main "confrontation" area in central Europe.

Talks called "MBFR" by West, for mutual and balanced force reductions, a name rejected by Communist bloc on grounds that stress on balance implies Warsaw pact superiority.

Western proposal: four-stage cuts over seven years on each side to 700,000 ground troops and 200,000 airmen, backed by strict verification. Based on Western figures, this would call for cuts of about 260,000 men by Warsaw Pact, 90,000 by NATO.

Soviet bloc proposal: cuts of 20,000 Soviet, 13,000 U.S. troops, eventual 900,000 ceiling for ground force and air personnel on each side.

Talks stalled for nine years in dispute over figures. NATO says Warsaw Pact underestimates its forces by 160,000, but offered last April to relax demands for troop data in exchange for concessions on verification to ensure agreement is honoured.

PROFILE

One more job for veteran Gromyko in Geneva

By Charles Bremner
 Reuters

MOSCOW — For Andrei Gromyko, the veteran Soviet foreign affairs chief, meeting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Geneva this week for new arms control talks is unlikely to hold any surprises.

This century's most experienced foreign minister, Mr. Gromyko, 75, has advised every Soviet leader except Lenin and conferred with every U.S. president since Franklin Roosevelt.

Mr. Shultz, whom he meets Monday and Tuesday, is the ninth U.S. Secretary of State since Nikita Khrushchev appointed him foreign minister in 1957.

Mr. Gromyko is at the height of a foreign service career comparable in length only to those of France's Talleyrand and Austria's Metternich in the early 19th century.

In his old age, he has emerged as chief architect of Soviet foreign policy under President Konstantin Chernenko after many years as a self-effacing executor of Kremlin decisions.

Tall, stooping and of sombre appearance, he has honed his negotiating skills in 40 years of meeting Western leaders; since Stalin first sent him as ambassador to Washington in 1943.

His knowledge of the Western mind, dead-pan wit and ability to pinpoint the weaknesses of an adversary have earned him a reputation as a formidable opponent across a conference table.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who helped shape the 1970s detente era with Mr. Gromyko, recalled in his memoirs: "Gromyko knew every shade of a subject. It was suicidal to negotiate with him without mastering the record."

Statesmen who have dealt with

him in the past 18 months say he has acquired a new authority, particularly since Mr. Chernenko succeeded Yuri Andropov as Communist Party leader last February.

Diplomats believe dis-appointment with the passing of detente and antipathy towards the Reagan administration were behind bitterness evident in Mr. Gromyko's recent dealings with the West.

A year ago, he set the tone for a freeze in East-West relations with a tough speech at the Stockholm European Disarmament Conference.

Diplomats saw his hand behind Moscow's decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics and to order a halt to growing contacts between the Kremlin's East European allies and West Germany.

While Washington made overtures to Moscow last September, Mr. Gromyko told President Reagan at a White House meeting he heard nothing new.

He delivered another blast against U.S. policies at the United Nations — a forum he has known since its foundation in 1946. In the 1950s, he was nicknamed "Mr. Nyet (no)" for his frequent use of the Soviet Security Council veto.

By September, Western diplomats were detecting a contrast between Mr. Gromyko's continuing invective and more conciliatory comments from Mr. Chernenko.

In recent weeks, with the Geneva meeting in prospect, Mr. Chernenko's line has dominated. But few diplomats see the differing tones as anything other than deliberate strategy.

Among Mr. Gromyko's strong points is mastery of seeking short-term advantage, and he has been quick to show flexibility in the past when needed to promote and reinforce Soviet interests.

Tough task for Shultz at Geneva arms talks

By William Scally
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz faces one of the biggest challenges of his career when he embarks on this week on the tortuous road of arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shultz, 64, meets Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva Monday to set an agenda for negotiations on nuclear and space weapons.

In the process, he will be seeking a foreign policy success that has eluded him since he took over from Alexander Haig at the State Department in July 1982.

He has to chart a way through problems posed by increasingly complex military technology and distrust between the superpowers. He also faces divisions in the government, notably between State Department diplomats and Defence Department hawks, on how to approach negotiations with Moscow.

Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko are no strangers. They met in New York in September 1982 and later, in an atmosphere clouded by the September 1983 Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner, in Madrid and Stockholm.

They last met in New York and Washington last September, when Mr. Gromyko also held talks with President Reagan.

Mr. Shultz, a professional economist and former top business executive, has a reputation for quiet toughness, patience and negotiating skill honed as a labour mediator.

He was Labour Secretary and treasury secretary under President Richard Nixon, and appears to have established a close working relationship with Mr. Reagan.

His career as secretary of state has been marked by able, if un-pectacular, management of U.S. foreign relations.

Ties between the United States and its allies have improved, U.S.

and West European officials say. Mr. Shultz helped to settle a damaging dispute over U.S. sanctions against firms which sold equipment to Moscow for a natural gas pipeline to Europe.

He also paved the way for sound U.S.-Chinese relations following a shaky period after Mr. Reagan, running for president, suggested Washington should upgrade relations with Taiwan.

In the Middle East, Mr. Shultz has encountered mostly failure and frustration. He helped to negotiate an agreement on withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon only to see it scrapped by Lebanon last March on Syria's advice.

The previous month, Washington withdrew U.S. peacekeeping troops from Lebanon after a troubled 18-month mission aimed at bolstering government authority. Suicide bombings of three U.S. buildings had taken more than 260 lives.

Since Mr. Reagan's reelection last November, the State Department has played down any U.S. role in helping Lebanon and Israel forge another withdrawal accord, apparently to minimise a new setback for U.S. prestige if negotiations fail.

Bombings in the Middle East and elsewhere have made Mr. Shultz a forthright campaigner against terrorism. He has advocated preemptive strikes to prevent terrorist attacks, even at the risk of causing civilian casualties, and has also emphasised the role of military power as complementary to diplomacy.

These positions appear to have put him at odds with Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and relations between the two men — both former executives of the Bechtel construction firm — are a source of frequent speculation.

The public appears often to perceive the images accompanying their jobs as reversed, with Mr. Shultz hawkish and Mr. Weinberger more cautious.

Train bomb attack disappointed hopeful Italians

By Tony Austin
 Reuters

ROME — The devastating train bomb attack two days before Christmas has sparked anger and disappointment among Italians who were beginning to hope that 15 years of extremist political violence were over.

The bomb exploded in a railway tunnel between Florence and Bologna on the eve of a holiday which would have crowned one of the most economically successful and politically stable years since 1969, according to political analysts.

"There's a diabolical logic in all this," Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said as rescue workers brought the 15 bodies and more than 100 injured passengers out of the smoke-filled tunnel.

"It's as if we Italians had no right to live in peace."

One week after the explosion aboard the Naples-Milan Express, magistrates in Bologna have issued descriptions of two young men they believe may have planned the five-kilogram device in a crowded second-class carriage.

Some 23 anonymous callers to newspapers have claimed responsibility for the blast, the worst terrorist attack in Italy since the August, 1980, explosion at Bologna Railway Station which killed 85 people.

Most of the callers said they represented extremist right-wing groups blamed for 11 previous bomb attacks on the 100-kilometre stretch of line between Arezzo and Bologna.

Magistrates said the possibility

of involvement by left-wing extremists like the Red Brigades or of the Mafia or foreign subversive groups could not be ruled out.

But a large majority of Italian politicians, judges and newspapers blame the attack on the extreme right, suggesting its purpose is to halt Italy's return to stability.

Inflation has fallen to about nine per cent from 22 per cent in 1979 and this year there has been a further decline in the fortunes of the once-feared Red Brigades. There are also strong indications that the Mafia's structure may be starting to crumble.

"The tunnel bomb was the sting in the tail of right-wing subversives who know they too are on the way out," said Transport Minister Claudio Signorile.

Claudio Martella, deputy leader of Mr. Craxi's Socialist Party, said the bomb was planted "to keep Italy in the grip of terrorism."

The latest attack revived allegations that right-wing extremists enjoyed high-level protection and politicians expressed outrage that previous acts of terrorism had gone unpunished.

Ferdinando Imposimato, a Rome magistrate who has investigated both leftist and rightist political violence, says prominent Neo-Fascists had "disturbing ties with various armed services."

Last month former military intelligence General Pietro Musumeci and his subordinate, Colonel Giuseppe Belmonte, were committed for trial on charges including simulating a crime and possession of explosives.

Pro-Israel Christian fundamentalism plagues American media

By Alan Dahmer

Part I

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the Israeli government's military occupation of Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese land have received continuous support and praise from American Christian fundamentalists. Likewise, they look on the ever-present possibility of all-out war between Israel and Soviet-supported Syria with nearly gleeful anticipation. The most prominent of these fundamentalist backers of Israeli military policies are the "televangelists" (television evangelists). Televangelist programmes are broadcast on television and cable TV nationwide. Those programmes which have attracted the largest audience are: Jimmy Swaggart's "Weekly Crusade"; Jerry Falwell's "Old Time Gospel Hour"; Jim Bakker's "PTL Show"; James Robison's "In the Word with James Robison"; Pat Robertson's "700 Club"; and Paul Crouch's "Praise the Lord Show." This issue paper will examine the peculiar relationship between Christian fundamentalism and the Israeli state as it is portrayed by televangelists. A brief account of their broader religio-political message will help put this support in context.

THOUGH EACH televangelist has his own distinctive format and style of delivery, all emphasise the same religious and political themes. They speak of being "born again," of the New Testament miracles performed by Jesus, and of the miracles they have experienced in their own lives. From these familiar motifs of personalist evangelism they shift to the agenda of the New Right. They speak of familiar national issues like abortion, which they oppose, and prayer in the schools, which they favour. They call for a crackdown on crime and the return of the death penalty.

Increasingly they have turned to foreign policy issues as well. Exhortations to their followers for contributions to Rios Montt of Guatemala resulted in millions of dollars being sent to the now deposed born-again general. They call for a continuation of covert U.S. aid to the former Nicaraguan national guardsmen now attempting to overthrow the internationally recognised Sandinista government. They continue to denounce the return of the Panama Canal to Panamanian control. And they support continued U.S. military aid to El Salvador.

Although they only recently have gained public visibility, televangelists have already left their mark on local, state, national and international U.S. policy. Their biggest victory to date remains the 1980 election campaign. By associating (or more frequently, dissociating) the fundamentalist platform of moral and political ideals with certain candidates, by encouraging their audiences to vote, and by sponsoring New Right lectures, rallies, and demonstrations, they helped promote the then fledgling conservative movement, giving it an outlet and thus a prominence it may not otherwise have received.

An equally successful campaign has been waged against the TV industry in the form of boycott threats to advertisers sponsoring programmes deemed unacceptable by fundamentalist pressure groups like the Coalition for Better Television (CBTV). Formed after the 1980 election by fundamentalist preachers and various leaders of the New Right and promoted by televangelists like Jerry Falwell, CBTV has successfully intimidated TV producers into eliminating many programmes dealing with sensitive moral issues. Homosexuality and abortion head up the list of unmentionables, but anything considered "gratuitous sex" — ranging from offensive sexual jokes, sexual innuendo and implied sexual intercourse, to women's miniskirts and low neck lines — have, for the most part, been altered, eliminated or cancelled to satisfy the demands of CBTV and others.

By 1981, for example, Proctor and Gamble, the TV industry's largest advertiser, had withdrawn its financial support from over 50 commercial TV programmes. More recently, General Foods, the second largest TV advertiser, reports withdrawing ads from approximately 100 programmes.

The results of these efforts are not always negative. But even the few positive effects they have had are brought about through condemnation. Fundamentalist hostility towards what they construe as immorality in effect dehumanises those perceived as immoral with invective and abusive categorisation. They denounce "secular humanists," feminists, homosexuals, liberals — members of almost any minority — who diverge from their own conception of traditional American morality, which is infused with religious and nationalistic patriotism. This conception is summed up in "the Judeo-Christian ethic," an expression with a long and respectable history that the televangelists have given their own narrow and tendentious meanings.

Arab-baiting and the FCC

The fundamentalist version of the Judeo-Christian ethic emphatically excludes Islam and the Arab Nation. Yet the term was originally intended for a contrary purpose — to bring Jews and Christians and their secular heirs together in a noble view to which each had contributed. But the televangelists turn it into something else: a tool to divide and conquer. The only acceptable role for Muslims, in their scheme of things, is as conversion candidates to Christianity. (Jews, it is assumed, will be converted at the dramatic last moment.) Referring to the establishment of a new television station in the Middle East that would be airing the "700 Club", Pat Robertson offered his audience theological justification both for this anti-Islamic bias and the work of televangelists.

...the Koran and Muslim teachings don't meet the deepest needs of the human heart. These are times of crisis and Islam stands on the divided doctrine looking to Communism or materialism for answers. Muslims are seeking truth today but the Christianity presented in the Koran brings further confusion. While there are deeply ingrained prejudices, there's a new openness to the gospel message if only it could be available by television.

This politically charged appeal

for support for a missionary enterprise gives religious sanction to distorted history and to racist views of Arabs and Islam. Local television stations which air nationally syndicated televangelist programmes are required — but frequently fail to offer — alternative programmes which would provide balance to the controversial political views espoused by the electronic preachers.

The U.S. Constitution disallows governmental interference with religious belief. However, when religious beliefs incorporate political opinions and those opinions are aired on radio and television, the federal government insists that balanced programming be offered to the public.

The Fairness Doctrine of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires that all stations airing opinions on subjects of "controversial public importance" broadcast programmes voicing alternative opinions. Furthermore, the FCC has stipulated that this condition applies to all expressions of opinion "whether or not they may be deemed religious views by some persons."

A close monitoring of several TV stations across the country indicates that religious programming is not taken into consideration when programme directors review their station's format for overall balance. Station licensees, otherwise conscious of their responsibility for fairness in editorial policy and "in-house" programming, frequently have ignored the political content of fundamentalist religious programmes. Stations receiving complaints about political content in religious idioms are usually willing to give opposing views some exposure, but most stations airing these programmes have never been challenged. For example, Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), the largest evangelical network in the country, has said flatly that none of his CBN stations has ever been confronted with a serious Fairness Doctrine challenge.

Such wins by default should not be permitted. The Televangelists, with their self-defined Judeo-Christian ethics, pose a threat to all minority communities, including Arabs and Arab-Americans. By associating Arab nations, Arab-Americans and all who support Arab concerns with satanic evil, fundamentalists promote a pattern of racist scapegoating which, as the world has witnessed too often, has no bounds or barriers. Anti-Arabism in the name of God, Israel or any other cause only serves to engender further hatred directed over a wider landscape of issues and people.

The Evangelical Right represents a dangerous new force in America that will not, as some have contended, "go away if left alone". Led by televangelists in the persuasive medium of television, fundamentalists continue to grow in political and economic power.

This issue paper examines in detail several aspects of fundamentalist thought and action as they concern racism against Arabs, in hopes that the creeping threat to other groups that racism presents will be brought into critical view.

Part I examines the symbiotic relationship between representatives of the Israeli gov-



Fundamentalists campaigning

ernment and television evangelists. Part II provides background on fundamentalism, the role of Israel in fundamentalist salvation, and the rise of fundamentalist political activity and power in America.

The Alliance

"I feel that America is tied with the spiritual umbilical cord to Israel. The ties go back long before the founding of the United States of America. The Judeo-Christian concept goes all the way back to Abraham and God's promise to Abraham which I believe also included America."

— Jimmy Swaggart

Televangelists preach that by lending support to the Israeli government, one is both obeying the Word of God and hastening what is termed, "the end times." For born-again Christians, the sooner these "end times" come, the sooner they will be lifted into heaven.

Combining this expectation with an implicit belief in manifest destiny results in the fundamentalist demand for absolute support by the "New Jerusalem," America, for the "promised land" of God, Israel.

Jimmy Swaggart, who has gained greater fame and fortune through his gold record-winning gospel singing than through his preaching, explains the fundamentalist view.

I feel that America is tied with the spiritual umbilical cord to Israel. The ties go back long before the founding of the United States of America. The Judeo-Christian concept goes all the way back to Abraham and God's promise to Abraham which I believe also included America. Because God still bless Israel and I will curse those that curse Israel. And thank God the United States of America still stands supreme today. And I believe firmly (that this is) because we've stood behind Israel and I pray God we always will stand behind Israel.

The Israeli victory in the summer of 1967 and the subsequent occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights were hailed by fundamentalists as a "thrill" and a source of "renewed faith in the accuracy of the Bible."

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Recently, though, influential Jewish organisations have demonstrated a willingness to suspend their religious sensibilities in exchange for what is perceived as support crucial to Israel's survival. Since 1967, the American Jewish Committee, headed by Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, has devoted its principal energies to firming up an alliance between American Jewry and Christian fundamentalists.

Other groups, such as the Jewish Defence League, and the Rabbinical Council of America, have also encouraged support of and by fundamentalists. Possibly the biggest boost to the alliance, however, has been the unabashed support of former Prime Minister Begin and the Likud government of Israel. Mr. Begin, who claims a personal friendship with Jerry Falwell, has both visited and been visited by many of the televangelists representing the Evangelical Right.

The Israeli victory in the summer of 1967 and the subsequent occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights were hailed by fundamentalists as a "thrill" and a source of "renewed faith in the accuracy of the Bible."

Simultaneously the support lent Israel by liberal Protestant denominations began to wane. While such groups as the United Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalists, Quakers, the Mennonite Central Committee and other members of the National Council of Churches (NCC) continue to denounce anti-Semitism and defend Israel's right to exist, they also insist that justice be accorded the Palestinians. Their concern over increasing militarism and human rights abuses have led

the NCC, for example, to criticise Israeli policies and practices that are inconsistent with themes of peace and justice.

Interpreting NCC disapproval as abandonment, Israeli officials began looking for new voices of support. By 1976, meetings between fundamentalist and Israeli leaders began taking place on an official basis. Since that time, despite many problems, the relationship has become stronger as the power of televangelists has grown and U.S. aid to Israel has increased.

Ironically, Israel's turn to the Evangelical Right has brought it to the fringe of anti-Semitism in America. Standing on the steps of the Virginia state capitol, for example, none other than Menachem Begin's personal friend Jerry Falwell remarked to members of his Moral Majority:

A few of you here today don't like Jews. And I know why. He can make more money accidentally than you can on purpose.

In the past such remarks typically would be condemned as racist and defamatory by groups like the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). Now the ADL and similar Jewish groups seem to be biting their tongues. ADL's National Director Nathan Perlmutter tries to explain away this phenomenon in his recent book, "The Real Anti-Semitism in America." He redefines anti-Semitism not as a hostile prejudice toward Jews but as criticism of the "Jewish state" of Israel. Tolerating the old "anti-Semitic and racist rantings" of the fundamentalists he says he detested when growing up required quite a bit of backbending. Mr. Perlmutter today summarises his willingness to accept the "piercing shrillness" of fundamentalism with equally piercing cynicism when he writes: "Let's praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

Perlmutter's remark was meant to allay Jewish anxiety at the fundamentalist propensity to proselytize, a practice which most Jews find offensive. Recently, fundamentalist leaders have responded to Jewish criticism by toning down their otherwise persistent, even aggressive attempts to "witness" to their Jewish allies in the United States.

One reason for this change of behaviour in America may be the perception of new opportunities for proselytising in the Holy Land, especially in southern Lebanon. The "Voice of Hope" radio station and the more recent "Star of Hope" television station, both located in southern Lebanon, are owned and operated by U.S. Christian fundamentalists, generously funded by American televangelist audiences, encouraged by the Israeli government, and used as a military tool by Sa'ad Haddad's men.

Mr. Haddad is the former Lebanese army officer responsible for waging a terror campaign against Lebanese and Palestinian civilians in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon. Court-martialed for desertion in 1978, Mr. Haddad has been responsible for the shelling of many villages and towns in southern Lebanon, hitting schools, public utility installations, and other non-military as well as military targets. In 1980, Mr. Haddad's tanks intentionally shelled a Boy Scout jamboree, killing eight and wounding 35. In addition, Mr. Haddad's forces have attacked United Nations headquarters and

hospitals in southern Lebanon and killed UNIFIL soldiers.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Haddad's actions have been condemned by the United States in the United Nations Security Council. His use of the "Voice of Hope" radio station to broadcast threats to the surrounding region has also brought the station's American owners under the scrutiny of the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. State Department.

Nicknamed the "Voice of Death" by its critics, the station is owned and operated by George Otis, who operates his High Adventure Ministry out of Van Nuys, California. Besides allowing Mr. Haddad free access to the station's facilities, the Ministry offers a vital U.S. public relations link for Mr. Haddad. His letters to "High Adventure friends" serve to bolster his reputation as a born-again Christian hero attempting to make Lebanon a "true Christian state."

The dogs of war are growling over here again. This is very tight!

It has been too long since I wrote to you. I'll try to tell you a little about our current situation here in Lebanon.

So much happens here and so fast. I want to thank you for prayers for me and for my people. We could never have survived without them; so don't stop! Many of you have given a report about us to your church and newspaper and that is beginning to help improve Free Lebanon's reputation to better match the truth.

...Hundreds of times over the past seven years I have been asked, "When will peace ever come to Lebanon?" I have always answered by saying, "When the Syrians and the PLO leave Lebanon." That is still the right answer.

...The only permanent solution to Lebanon's peace is Jesus, the Prince of Peace. When He comes we can finally throw away all of our tanks and guns. I think you, the Voice of Hope and our Christians here in Lebanon are making progress toward bringing Jesus back. Don't you?

...Don't forget our many serious problems here in South Lebanon. I now have responsibility for eight times more people than before and our finances are terribly low. If you can help us to help my people financially I thank you from the bottom of my heart. God will bless you.

George Otis always says: "and Lebanon shall become a fruitful field." That means something to me. Together, you and I are working towards that and we are making progress day by day. Please keep thanking heaven that the "Voice of God" is still broadcasting for peace and for Jesus. Don't ever let it go silent. Thank you. Your friend, Major Saad Haddad.

In the Middle East, Mr. Otis serves his public on both the radio station and the "Star of Hope" television station (which is funded in part by Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network) in much the same way as televangelists serve their public in the U.S. by airing inspirational messages, reading Christian Old Testament passages and playing music to spread the "Good

News." The TV station's broadcasts reach Iraq, Turkey and Egypt, but Mr. Otis admits his audiences in Lebanon and Israel are the most important for his ministry. He boasts that the television station is being used in fulfillment of the end-time prophecy, first and foremost, by preparing "the Jewish souls to recognise Jesus as their Messiah — before the coming battle of Armageddon."

In fact, religious proselytising in Israel was made illegal in 1978; the maximum sentence for violators is five years' imprisonment. But the Begin government not only allowed Otis broadcast privileges in Israel and Israeli occupied Lebanon, but initially encouraged the television station's construction.

Today, the Israeli government helps Otis station by providing it with "Voice of Israel" newscasts. And Israel also allows the station to proselytise over the airwaves. In return, the "Voice of Hope" serves as a propaganda vehicle for Israel's headman, Sa'ad Haddad's men in southern Lebanon, and wins support (financial and ideological) for them among American fundamentalists.

Yet for all the manifold profit each party derives from the other, Jewish supporters of Israel and Christian fundamentalists, the inherent rivalry of the two groups — both making exclusive claims to being God's chosen people — continues to surface again and again.

This inescapable rivalry has made many Jews skeptical of the alliance being formed by a coalition of Israeli and fundamentalist leaders. But despite this skepticism on the part of American Jewry at large, certain American Jewish leaders continue to act as brokers for this decidedly awkward mixed marriage between increasingly orthodox Jewish Israel and radically un-Jewish if not anti-Semitic American Christian fundamentalists.

"Most Jewish leaders are willing to forgive anything so long as they hear a good word about Israel."

— Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, head of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, offers a rationale for the incongruity between Jewish leadership and its constituency.

Why does organised American Jewry continue its flirtation with the Christian right? We know the reasons of course. Most Jewish leaders are willing to forgive anything so long as they hear a good word about Israel — AC Issues.

To be continued Monday

Alan Dahmer is a writer and research assistant for the ADC Research Institute. "Growing up in North Carolina," he says, "I've seen a lot of changes in fundamentalist preachers. They've come a long way from Sunday morning radio shows and talking about the dangers of dancing to satellites in the sky and lobbyists on the Hill." Mr. Dahmer received his B.A. in psychology and American literature at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He did graduate studies in theology and liturgy at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and in 1981, compiled a comprehensive 250-page bibliography on early Syrian Christianity with special emphasis on the Maronite Rite.

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London giants held to draws in English F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — First division Queen's Park Rangers and West Bromwich Albion were upset by sides from the lower divisions, while London giants Tottenham, Arsenal and Chelsea were all held to draws in the third round of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup Saturday.

Third division Doncaster and Orient created the shocks by beating Rangers and Albion 1-0 and 2-1 respectively on a day when the survivors from the lower divisions and outside the league took on the might of the top two divisions.

Tottenham Hotspur, leading Division One, were held at home 1-1 by second division Charlton Athletic. Fourth-placed Arsenal could only draw 1-1 away to Hereford of the fourth division while Chelsea had to come back from 2-0 down to salvage a 2-2 home draw against Wigan of the third.

Manchester United and Liverpool both prevailed 3-0 at home against Bournemouth and Aston Villa respectively while a club from outside the league became the Cinderella team of the day.

Telford United got the winning goal three minutes from time as they sailed into the fourth round with a 2-1 home triumph over Bradford City, the leaders of the third division.

But two other clubs from outside the league lost. Burton Albion 6-1 to Leicester and Dagoberto 1-0 at Carlisle.

At Hereford, the home side paraded before the game a mascot worth £15,000 (\$17,000), three

times as much as the team's players. It was a prize-winning bull called 'Liverpool' and he provided the needed inspiration.

Tony Woodcock gave Arsenal a 22nd minute lead, but Chris Price equalised 11 minutes later.

Wigan knocked Chelsea out of the cup at the same stage five years ago and goals by Paul Jewell and Mike Newell put them two up after 27 minutes Saturday. Dave Speedie and Pat Nevin replied in a five-minute spell in the second half but Chelsea will not relish the replay in Wigan next Tuesday.

Gordon Strachan, Gordon McQueen and Frank Stapleton scored for Manchester United at home as they avenged their 2-0 away loss to third division Bournemouth in last year's third round.

Ian Rush got a pair and John Wark one as Liverpool, who have not won the cup in 11 years, cruised past Villa.

Telford, who disposed of third division clubs Lincoln and Preston in earlier rounds, had defender Mark Hancock thank for the winning goal against leaders Bradford City.

Telford had gone ahead in the 18th minute — their first chance — through Colin Williams but

Bradford capped a sustained period of pressure by equalising through substitute Gary Haire.

Sheffield Wednesday, fifth in Division One, needed a late winner from Lee Chapman for a 3-2 victory at Fulham, but other first division clubs had less taxing matches.

Luther Blissett scored four as Watford smashed Sheffield United 5-0. Gary Lineker hit a hat trick in Leicester's triumph over Burton Albion. Paul Goddard struck three as West Ham beat Port Vale 4-1 and Steve Moran got a couple as Southampton trounced Sunderland 4-0.

In Scotland's Premier Division, Aberdeen shrugged off the loss of six points in their last four matches by beating Hibernian 2-0 to move four points clear at the top. Peter Weir and Stewart McKinnie were the scorers.

Celtic's match against Morton was postponed but Dundee United's fine recent form deserted them at St. Mirren where they went down 1-0 to an 86th minute goal from Jim Love.

Lewis to miss indoor games

PARIS (R) — Carl Lewis will not compete in the World Indoor Athletics Championships here on January 18 and 19, his manager Joe Douglas said.

He said Lewis, winner of four Olympic gold medals in Los Angeles, had decided to spend the winter preparing for a bid to beat the long jump world record currently held by fellow American Bob Beamon.

9 in a row for McEnroe against Connors

LAS VEGAS (R) — John McEnroe beat arch rival Jimmy Connors for the ninth time in a row here Friday night to reach the final of the Challenge of Champions tennis tournament.

The American now meets Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, who defeated Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in straight sets in the eight-man round-robin contest.

McEnroe, the world's top-ranked player, beat Connors 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, while Vilas toppled French Open Champion Lendl 6-4, 7-5.

McEnroe has not lost to Connors since 1983 and in five of those nine matches Connors has failed to take a set from the younger man. Since 1979 McEnroe

has won 17 of their 23 meetings.

McEnroe's serve was the clinching factor Friday night. He produced 16 aces to none by Connors.

After an even start, McEnroe won the final three games of the first set.

Battling Connors took the second set, after breaking McEnroe's serve in the 10th game. But McEnroe quickly regained control, breaking Connors in the first game of the final set and reeling off the last three games for a comfortable victory.

Vilas' win over Lendl ousted France's Yannick Noah from a final spot. Noah outlasted Vilas Gerulaitis of the U.S. 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, which meant both Vilas and

Noah finished with two wins and one defeat in their group.

The Argentine went through because he had beaten Noah when the pair met earlier.

Vilas captured the first set 6-4 after holding a 5-2 lead, and although Lendl again fought back in the second from 5-2 down to 5-5 Vilas won the next two games.

Noah, who beat Lendl the day before, owed much to his heavy serving. A lapse of concentration let Gerulaitis in for the second set, but there was no way back for the American after Noah had opened a 5-2 lead in the final set. McEnroe and Vilas meet for the \$200,000 first prize, with the runner-up collecting \$100,000.

U.S. swimmers set best time in 200m relay

FAYETTEVILLE, Arkansas (AP) — Battered by a strong first-day showing by East Germany, the United States improved Friday night with two world best times in the men's and women's 200-metre medley relays in the U.S. swimming international meet.

The United States, which came up two victories short of East Germany Thursday night, ended Friday with five victories to four for the German Democratic Republic and one for Czechoslovakia.

The German Democratic Republic, which won six of 10 events Thursday night, picked up three early victories Friday as Sven Lodziewski won the 800-metre freestyle in a time of 7:49.48, Astrid Strauss won the women's 200-metre freestyle in 1:59.62, and Cornelia Sirch won the women's 100-metre backstroke in 1:02.40.

In the 800-metre freestyle the Germans took the top three places, easily defeating American

Jeff Kostoff, the world record-holder in that event, who finished fourth.

Czechoslovakia's Marcel Gery won the men's 200-metre butterfly in a time of 1:57.02, just over a second slower than the world best of 1:56.07 held by Michael Gross of France.

Lodziewski edged Biondi by 15-hundredths of a second to win the 100-metre freestyle with a time of 49.48. German Dirk Richter finished third in 49.66.

The U.S. men's 200-metre medley team — Coy Cobb, John Moffet, Pablo Morales, and Matt Biondi — won the event in a time of 1:40.21. The time also set an American and U.S. open record.

The old record of 1:42.47 was set Friday morning by the University of Arkansas entry of Larry Craft, John Ulibarri, David Gean and Chris Cantwell, which placed second in the evening, five-tenths of a second behind the U.S. team. The time of 1:42.47 bettered

the 1:44.38 recorded by Southern Methodist University in 1982, a U.S. record.

The U.S. women's team set world best, American and U.S. open records in the 200-metre medley relay with a time of 1:54.58. The squad — Betsy Mitchell, Kim Rhodenbaugh, Jena Johnson and Kathy Coffin, bettered its own world best mark of 1:55.96, which it set in Friday morning preliminaries.

The world best of 2:03 was set by the St. Petersburg, Florida, Aquatic Club in 1973.

American Olympian Rick Schroeder barely edged teammate Uli Bari in the 100-metre breaststroke, with a winning time of 1:02.76.

Michelle Grigione led a one-two finish for the United States in the 400-metre individual medley with a time of 4:44.29. The U.S. women also took the final event of the evening, as Johnson won the 50-metre freestyle in 25.61.

Jordanian swimmers to take part in Cairo meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Swimming Federation has decided to take part in the winter swimming championships to be held in Cairo in March. The championships include competitions for young swimmers below 12 and 14 years of age, and water polo competitions. The federation also decided to organise a swimming competition at Al Hussein Youth City's winter pool on March 8. Competitors of all ages and both sexes will be allowed to take part. The best swimmers in the March 8 competition will be allowed to take part in the Cairo event. The federation also said that contacts are underway with the International Swimming Federation to subscribe to the monthly Swimming magazine which is published in the United States.

Jordan to attend AWF session

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to take part in the meetings of the Arab Wrestling Federation (AWF) general assembly scheduled to be held in Morocco during April, according to the President of the Jordanian Wrestling Federation Ibrahim Al Awameh. The AWF also announced the 1985 championships programme among which will be the Arab beginners championship scheduled to be held in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad during the first half of August to be accompanied by an international refereeing course. Morocco will host the Arab seniors championship during June along with a general assembly meeting while the Arab Youth Championship will be held in the Syrian capital of Damascus during October.

Boxing federations agree to hold contests in Syria, Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Boxing Federation has concluded agreements with Arab Boxing Federations taking part in a pan-Arab meeting in Amman over the past few days.

According to the federation's president Saleh Basimi agreement was reached with the Syrian federation to hold two contests of seven different weights in Amman and Damascus in April and May.

Another agreement, signed with the Saudi delegation provides for holding bouts in Saudi Arabia in February. According to Mr. Basimi, the Jordanian federation will take part in the Third Arab Championship to be held in Algiers and the youth championships in Syria, in accordance with the Arab Boxing Federation's resolutions.

Al Hussein wins volleyball cup

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Hussein Volleyball Club retained the Jordan Championship title for the third successive year Saturday by beating Al Wihdat club in the final at the Sport City's Sports Palace.

In a match attended by the Minister of Youth Dr. Hani Al Khasawneh, Hussein defeated Wihdat 3-2 (game scores: 11-15, 15-10, 15-5, 9-10, 15-6). President of the Jordanian Volleyball Federation presented the winners with the championship trophy.

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Registration for the January-March term will take place on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th January at the following times:

Testing: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Registration: 9:00 - 12:00 a.m.
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 44092-44280

BUDDY
BUDDY
(Colour)

Tel: 677420
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 22117

CHRISTINE

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 25155

LOVE
AND
MONEY

(In Colour)

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema OPERA

SUZANNE

(Colour)

Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- BAZI
2- BRUCE LEE, THE UNCONTESTED

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

BROTHERS MEETING
(Indian)

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5-8-10

Philadelphia

WHEN MEN CRY

(Arabic)

Shows at 3:30 6:30 8:30 10:30

Tel.: 34144-34149

Shultz to defend 'Star Wars'

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz leaves for Geneva for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko prepared to defend U.S. plans for research into a "Star Wars" missile defence system.

Officials say that President Reagan's \$26-billion research programme, officially known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), is not a bargaining counter to be traded away in future negotiations on offensive weapons.

The Reagan administration hopes to begin laying the groundwork for resuming nuclear weapons negotiations during the two-day Geneva talks, but the Soviet Union has served notice that its top priority is halting the U.S. anti-missile effort.

Before leaving for Geneva late Saturday, Mr. Shultz was due to meet top arms control officials at the State Department.

Virtually the entire hierarchy of the arms control establishment, including White House National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, is going to Geneva with Mr. Shultz. Also included are Paul Nitze and Edward Rowny, the negotiators at the strategic and medium-range nuclear missile

talks suspended by the Soviet Union more than 13 months ago. Mr. Nitze has since been named as a special arms control adviser to Mr. Shultz.

The U.S. commitment to SDI was underlined this week by the publication of a booklet elaborating on Mr. Reagan's vision, in a March 1983 speech, of eliminating the threat posed by strategic missiles by making them "impotent and obsolete".

The programme has been attacked by critics who say it cannot fulfil Mr. Reagan's aim of protecting the American people and will cause the Soviet Union to try to develop missiles that can overcome the Star Wars defences.

However, in the booklet defending the plan, the Reagan administration says SDI "need not provide 100 per cent protection in order to enhance deterrence (of nuclear attack) significantly".

It says the system could protect U.S. military forces and make

Moscow less sure of being able to destroy U.S. missiles. Such uncertainties, it says, would reduce the Soviet incentive for a surprise first-strike attack intended to undercut U.S. ability to retaliate.

The booklet says: "By significantly reducing or eliminating the ability of ballistic missiles to attack military forces effectively, and thereby rendering them impotent and obsolete as a means of supporting aggression, advanced defences could remove this major cause of instability."

It calls the SDI programme a prudent response to Soviet research and development of missile defence and an insurance against Soviet unilateral development of an advanced system.

The booklet suggests that Washington would share any missile defence breakthroughs with Moscow, saying the United States seeks a future environment that serves U.S. and allied interests as well as the Soviet Union.

Consequently, should it prove possible to develop a highly capable defence against ballistic missiles, we would envision parallel United States and Soviet deployments," it says.

Meanwhile a top Soviet com-

mentator said Saturday that the United States seems in no hurry to work out proposals for next week's arms control talks in Geneva and has yet to make its position clear.

Yuri Zhukov said that when Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko meet on Monday and Tuesday they will embark on completely new talks.

Moscow was prepared to conduct the talks in a constructive way, he said in an article in the Communist Party daily Pravda headed "good basis for agreement".

"As for the United States, its stand will become clear only during the coming meeting. It is not clear yet," he said.

"It is also worth recalling that recently American officials have been making it clearer in their interviews with journalists that Washington is in no hurry to work out mutually acceptable proposals," Mr. Zhukov said.

The meeting, he said, did not mark a return to previous talks on medium-range and strategic nuclear weapons which stopped in November 1983 when Moscow walked out over the U.S. deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe.



SHENOUDA RECEIVES WELL-WISHERS: An Egyptian Coptic father holds his young son to receive a blessing Saturday from Pope Shenouda III, leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church, who was released Tuesday from three years of confinement by the Egyptian government (AP wirephoto)

III, leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church, who was released Tuesday from three years of confinement by the Egyptian government (AP wirephoto)

Rama Rao asks Gandhi for cash aid

NEW DELHI (R) — Film star N.T. Rama Rao, propelled into the spotlight as India's new national opposition leader, met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Saturday and demanded extra cash for his drought-hit southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Rao, chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, heads the regional Telugu Desam Party which alone resisted Mr. Gandhi's massive elec-

tion victory last month to emerge as the largest national opposition group in parliament.

Mr. Rao held an hour-long meeting with Mr. Gandhi in Delhi and offered to co-operate with Mr. Gandhi's triumphant Congress (I) Party, which won 401 of the 508 parliamentary seats at stake, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI quoted the yellow-robed

politician as saying he submitted a memorandum to the prime minister listing Andhra Pradesh development projects which required New Delhi's approval.

He asked for an extra 470 million rupees (\$39 million) to help to relieve the impact of both drought and monsoon floods which affected widespread areas of the state last year, it said.

Sikh priest asks for government protection

NEW DELHI (R) — One of India's most important Sikh religious leaders has appealed to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to protect the Sikh community, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Saturday.

The News agency quoted Sahib Singh, head priest of Amritsar's Golden Temple, the sect's holiest shrine, as calling on Mr. Gandhi to make the protection of Sikh lives and property his first task after his landslide election victory last month.

No polls were held in Punjab state, where most Sikhs live, for fear of renewed sectarian violence.

Sahib Singh, commenting on Mr. Gandhi's appointment on Thursday of a special cabinet task force to examine the Punjab crisis, demanded the release of Sikh politicians held in jail since the army moved into the state last June.

"Let the prime minister come out with an assurance... to save the honour, life and property of the Sikhs and to punish the guilty persons in order to inculcate a sense of security in them," Mr. Singh said.

PTI said that Mr. Gandhi had asked the Punjab administration to persuade Sikhs who went to the state during the riots to return to their homes elsewhere in India.

Mr. Gandhi, who has said Punjab would head his list of domestic priorities, included Defence Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on his committee to study the crisis.

Sahib Singh called for the unconditional release of the Sikh leaders to enable them to take part in any talks with the government.

U.S. police overpower hijacker after 6 hours

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — A woman who shot two people and took four others hostage in an attempt hijacking was wounded and captured by police Friday night after a six-hour siege aboard a Pan American airliner at Cleveland Airport.

Police identified the woman as Ormetta Mays, a resident of a poor Cleveland neighbourhood, who was later reported in critical condition with a gunshot wound in the chest.

She was captured when police stormed the Boeing 727, parked at an airport terminal.

There was an exchange of gunfire during which one policeman was slightly wounded by the woman, police said.

Two men, a woman and a baby, who had been held aboard the plane, were not injured.

When the incident began, more than 200 passengers and crewmembers fled to safety through the plane's rear exit door on seeing the woman enter the plane.

One agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Mays appeared irrational and tired and the decision was made to storm the plane because it was thought the hostages were in danger.

Police had said Mays' only demand was to be flown to Rio de Janeiro.

Police said the incident began when Mays tried to walk by an airport security checkpoint without going through a metal detector.

She was challenged by two guards, pulled a small handgun and fled into an entrance ramp leading to the airliner, where several shots were fired.

Wounded at that point was a woman gate attendant.

Mays then boarded the plane, which was to fly to New York.

Police surrounded the airliner and brought a psychiatrist on board, as part of their attempt to negotiate with the woman.

2nd Honduran minister seeks expulsion of rebels

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Honduran Presidency Minister Ubaldo Arriaga Iraheta has reiterated that U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels must be expelled from this country.

The minister told a news conference that a rebel Nicaraguan Indian group known as the Misura had offended Honduran sovereignty and law by saying in local newspapers they were prepared to kill 23 captured Nicaraguan soldiers.

Mr. Arriaga Iraheta said Honduran law required the summary expulsion of foreigners who meddled in internal affairs but added that no decision on the rebels' expulsion had been taken.

The Misura are among about 12,000 anti-Sandinista rebels who have used Honduras as a base for three years.

Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barrios told reporters Thursday the rebels had abused Honduran hospitality and should be "kicked out".

Diplomats said Mr. Paz Barrios' statement, made days before a meeting of the peace-seeking Contadora Group, underlined concern that the rebels' presence contradicted the official Honduran policy of supporting a negotiated settlement in the region.

Last year Honduras ordered the rebels to be less conspicuous, closing a rebel hospital and press office and expelling a leader of the largest insurgent group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

Western diplomats have said these measures were an attempt to extract more aid from the United States, with which Honduras is negotiating revisions to a mutual defence treaty.

Officials said Friday they had expressed concern to the U.S. over the presence of the rebels in Honduras.

"I wish they would just go," one said.

Kennedy on S. African tour follows in brother's footsteps

JOHANNESBURG (R) — U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy begins a week-long tour of racially-divided South Africa, retracing the footsteps of his assassinated brother Robert.

Robert Kennedy made impassioned pleas for racial liberty when he toured the country in 1966. Two years later he was shot dead during a campaign for the presidency.

Edward Kennedy has been widely tipped to make a bid for the U.S. leadership in four years time but the senator's aides discount speculation that the South African tour is the beginning of a campaign for the 1988 presidential elections.

Sen. Kennedy's tour emphasises meetings with black leaders. He will spend his first night in the turbulent black township of Soweto, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, at the house of Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Political analysts said it was unlikely his requests to meet jailed black leaders would be granted but he would be allowed to meet Winnie Mandela, wife of nationalist Nelson Mandela serving a life sentence for sabotage and plotting violent revolution.

Also greeting him will be Beyers Naude, an implacable foe of the country's racially divisive policy of apartheid. Naude is due to succeed Tutu in the SACC following seven years during which he was silenced by the uniquely South African banning order which cut him off totally from society.

But the senator's meetings will not be only with black opponents of the government. U.S. officials said he would also address a group of 600 business leaders, most of them white, and also hold informal talks with selected groups of white businessmen and academics.

TASS says Moscow regrets missile error

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS said Saturday that a Soviet missile may have flown over Norway and Finland and that Moscow had expressed its regret to Helsinki and Oslo.

The short report was the first mention in the Soviet media of the missile which TASS said went off course after being launched during an exercise in the Barents Sea on Dec. 28.

Norway said the cruise missile flew over its territory and crashed in Finland last Friday.

"Because of errors which arose, a winged target deviated from its given course towards the shore and disappeared in a westerly direction," TASS said.

"It is not excluded that it flew partly over Norwegian territory and entered Finnish territory," it said, adding that Moscow had expressed its regrets to both governments involved.

The TASS report appeared to tally closely with what Soviet ambassadors told the Norwegian and Finnish authorities Friday.

The target had not carried any explosives or toxic substances, TASS said.

"In connection with the given unpremeditated incident, which occurred because of the failure of a part, the Soviet side informed the Finnish and Norwegian sides and expressed its regret over what happened," it said.

TASS said the target missile was launched during an exercise in the Barents Sea involving Soviet naval vessels.

Western diplomats said the Sov-

iet apologies, delivered in Oslo and Helsinki Friday, were a clear signal that Moscow was prepared to deviate from its usual tactics to ensure the arms control talks scheduled for Monday and Tuesday went ahead smoothly.

Some diplomats had thought the missile affair would taint the atmosphere when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met.

But Washington moved swiftly to play down the incident and Moscow quickly expressed its regret. Oslo welcomed the response and said it would help the superpower meeting.

Meanwhile, Moscow's allies have put the onus on the United States to make the Geneva talks a success.

Official media predicted no immediate breakthrough when Mr. Shultz meets Mr. Gromyko and warned the U.S. not to upset the military balance.

Hungary's official daily Magyar Hirlap quoted Soviet sources as saying Mr. Gromyko would submit a variety of disarmament ideas to the talks which were being watched with cautious expectation.

Romania's Agerpres news agency said President Nicolae Ceausescu welcomed the meeting and hoped it would lead to new formal nuclear arms talks.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chmoupek said in an interview with Bulgaria's Rabotnichesko Delo that if the talks were to succeed, the U.S. side must behave responsibly.

Ten Thais killed in crossborder shelling

AMPIL, Kampuchea (R) — About 10 Thai rangers were killed in cross-border artillery shelling during ground fighting between Vietnamese troops and guerrillas along the troubled western Kampuchean border, police reported.

Police in Thailand's north eastern province of Buriram said several Vietnamese artillery shells fired into Thai territory hit a border defence outpost opposite the besieged camp of O-Bok north of Ampil.

It was the highest Thai casualty toll since Vietnamese troops launched a dry-season offensive in November against a string of camps of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KNLF) along the 720-kilometre border.

Four soldiers were killed and two wounded in a clash after Vietnamese troops backed by artillery intruded about 1,000 metres inside Thailand opposite O-Bok earlier this week.

Thailand has complained in recent weeks of several cross-border shelling and Vietnamese ground intrusions in hot pursuit of guerrillas.

The latest incident came in a wake of renewed expectations of a major assault against Ampil, the only major KNLF base still intact.

Thai military officers and KNLF leaders expect an attack on Ampil, 300 kilometres east of Bangkok, on Monday, sixth anniversary of the Vietnamese occupation of the Kampuchean capital of Phnom Penh.

A KPRLF official told reporters that it would be a morale boost for the guerrillas if the attack did not materialise "because it means the Vietnamese are not yet sure of victory if they hit us."

But, he said, for security reasons a scheduled press conference at the border on Monday by KPRLF leader Son Sann had been cancelled.

Only sporadic small armed fire could be heard Saturday beyond the forward defence line of Ampil and at Nong Samet, 25 kilometres to the south and scene of heavy fighting in recent days.

Hing Kunthan, KPRLF's deputy chief of the civilian affairs, dismissed as unfounded speculation that the Vietnamese might use helicopters in an attack at Ampil.

The Vietnamese have not been known to use helicopters in combat operations against guerrillas in six years of war.

In expectations of a strike at the main base, more than 20,000 refugees were moved Friday in orderly procession four kilometres deeper in Thailand.

They trudged under the noonday sun with their domestic pets, waterbuffaloes, pigs and poultry and their belongings tied on bamboo poles.

International relief agency officials said the influx brought to about 130,000 the number of Kampuchean who had sought refuge in Thailand since Hanoi launched its dry-season offensive.

Soviet planes intercepted 471 times by Norway

OSLO (R) — Norwegian jets were scrambled 471 times in 1984 to intercept Soviet planes off north Norway, almost double the 1983 figure of 250, the Defence Ministry said Saturday.

A spokesman said the increase was probably caused by improved Norwegian detection equipment, and not by an increase in Soviet

flights near the NATO member's air space.

Norway last year introduced AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) surveillance flights from north Norwegian airfields to improve monitoring operations around the Norwegian border with the Soviet Union.

U.S. special force reportedly can place nuclear bombs behind enemy lines

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. special operations forces have been trained to carry and place light-weight nuclear bombs behind enemy lines in the event of a European war with the Soviet Union, a top research analyst says.

The smallest of the warheads weighs only 27 kilograms, he says.

William M. Arkin, the director of the Arms Race and Nuclear Weapons Research Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, said Friday the existence of the light-weight bombs — known as special atomic demolition munitions — has been known for years.

But what has now become apparent, he added, is that the United States and its allies have decided not to retire the special bombs from a European stockpile and, indeed, to give special operations units the responsibility and training to place them behind enemy lines in the event of war.

"We've known for some time that the United States had two small atomic munitions in its arsenal — a larger one dubbed the medium and one called the special that can be carried by one man," Mr. Arkin said in an interview.

"But we were never sure why there were two kinds."

"More recently, it has become clear that the special is solely for the use of commandos and that it's going to remain in our European stockpile," he added. "It's cer-

tainly the most bizarre nuclear weapon in our arsenal. And since it's for use behind enemy lines, that certainly doesn't spell deterrence in any terms."

The existence of the special atomic demolition munition, or "backpack nuke" in military jargon, was spotlighted last January when Mr. Arkin and two co-authors published a new compendium of U.S. nuclear forces.

Drawing on congressional testimony and information from Pentagon sources, the reference book disclosed the small nuclear bombs were first produced in 1963, that the warhead weighs only about 26 kilograms, and that about 800 remained in America's arsenal.

The weapons became the subject of renewed scrutiny following a report Thursday evening by an NBC Television newscast. NBC said it had learned that special operations commandos in Bad Tolz, West Germany, had been trained in European languages, customs, sabotage and the use of the backpack nukes.

"In a big way, they would drop behind Soviet lines and organise resistance movements," NBC reported. "(And) there are 100 of these backpack nuclear weapons in West Germany."

"The backpack nukes would be set off by remote control (after placement) to destroy targets such as airfields and Soviet command sites,"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠KQ762 ♣AKJ95 ♦6 ♣Q3
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 ?
 What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠983 ♥KQJ9 ♦954 ♠1096
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 1 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
 4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
 6 ♥ ?
 What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠109852 ♥93 ♦A87 ♠AQ5
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 4 ♥ Pass 5 ♥ Pass
 ?
 What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠83 ♥73 ♦92 ♠KJ8763
 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AK9 ♥AKJ87 ♦8 ♠10632
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 1 ♠ Double 2 ♠ Pass
 Pass 2 ♥ 3 ♠ 3 ♥
 Pass ?
 What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠Q7 ♥K10763 ♦983 ♠752
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 NT Double Pass ?

COLUMN

Supreme court judge has cancer surgery

WASHINGTON (R) — Supreme court Justice Lewis F. Powell, 77, underwent surgery for cancer of the prostate at a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, the court announced. Powell, considered a moderate on the nine-member court, will be in hospital for 10 to 14 days but wants to return to the bench by February. A supreme court spokesman said, "His prognosis is excellent," a court statement said. Five of the nine justices are 76 or older.

Leading Watergate figure dies

NEW YORK (R) — General Robert Cushman Jr., a close friend of former President Richard Nixon who became embroiled in the Watergate scandal in 1973, died on Wednesday aged 70, the Pentagon announced. Although he was decorated as a hero in World War II and later a Vietnam war veteran and served as commandant of the Marine Corps from 1972 to 1975, Gen. Cushman was best known for the part he played in the Watergate affair. It was disclosed at a hearing of the Senate Watergate Committee that as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Gen. Cushman initially approved CIA assistance for the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Ellsberg was a former national security aide who claimed to have released the Pentagon papers to the press. Gen. Cushman died at his home in Maryland, the Pentagon said. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Rock musician loses arm

LONDON (R) — Surgeons have amputated the left arm of British rock group Def Leppard's drummer Rick Allen four days after they sewed it back on following a car crash, a hospital said Saturday. Allen, whose group has taken the United States by storm, had his arm torn off at the shoulder when his sports car overturned on New Year's Eve. On Friday night doctors, who had sewn the arm back on in a four-hour operation, were forced to amputate it because of a wound infection. Allen was said to be in stable condition in a Sheffield, central England, hospital.

Liver transplant baby dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — An eight-month-old Australian baby, Kevin Mitchell, died in a Los Angeles hospital, five days after receiving a second transplanted liver, a hospital spokesman said. The baby's mother, Rae Mitchell, of Cairns, Queensland, who had brought her son to the hospital when his original liver failed, was at his bedside when he died. The spokesman at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) hospital said the boy died of pulmonary failure. Kevin received his first transplanted liver on Dec. 18 and his body rejected it. A second liver was transplanted last Sunday.

Indian army mules dying of disease

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian army's mules, crucial in supplying troops on the high Himalayan border with China and Pakistan, have been seriously hit by disease, a scientific conference was told Friday. The animals were dying of a respiratory disease, possibly caused by fungus in their hay, three scientists from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute said in a paper to a conference of the Indian Science Congress. The disease first struck seven years ago and was assuming serious proportions, the paper said. It said new recruits to the army's mule brigade were least affected with animals aged 11 and above most vulnerable. The mules carry supplies to troops stationed in forward posts at altitudes of up to 7,000 metres.

Surrogate mother gives birth to baby

LONDON (R) — Britain's first "baby for cash" was born to a surrogate mother in a London hospital Friday, hospital sources said. Kim Cotton, 28, gave birth to a girl at Victoria Maternity Hospital in Barnet, north London, and both she and the baby were doing well, they said. Cotton was impregnated with the sperm from a man who had a childless marriage. He and his wife are to pay £14,000 (\$16,000) to take charge of the child, with £6,500 (\$7,500) going to Cotton and the rest to a surrogate mother agency.